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# Brian E. Wagner Scholarship Fund gives back to the Elmhurst community



**Visitation parish hosts the annual "Bags for Wags" fundraiser to a capacity crowd of supporters.**

*Courtesy of Pete Mazar*

## Submitted by Marisol Zamar

The Brian E. Wagner Scholarship Fund recently held its annual "Bags for Wags" fundraiser, making this one of its most profitable events since the organization's inception in 2010.

The fund's mission is to encourage motivated young leaders to make a positive impact in their lives and the welfare of their communities through volunteer service. The foundation was established in memory of Brain Edwin Wagner who tragically passed away in an auto accident 25 years ago. Since that time his story and passion to make a difference is remembered through this scholarship program. Those that receive the award proudly carry on his legacy.

The current board members are: Barbara Wagner-Lackey, Mike Wagner, Ed Lackey, Becky Lawton-Wagner, Tracey, Degnan, Nikki Doherty, Brian Doherty, Jason Gentile, Dan Gibbons, Tom Hagensee, John Halloran, Mark La Shure, Katie Mayberry-Hauser, Bryan Hauser, John Noldan and Pete Zamar.

They have granted this distinguished honor to more than 20 college bound high school seniors from: Fenwick, IC Catholic Prep, Montini, Timothy Christian and York Community high schools.

All proceeds raised at the "8th Bags for Wags" charity event will be used to defer the first year tuition costs of recipients who are selected this spring. The ideal candidates will emulate Brian's most admirable qualities: resilience, fortitude and integrity.

At the sold-out bean bag tournament 32 teams competed and raised enough money to bestow several scholarships this year. The overall winning team was Trevor and Megan Stotts. The long-standing tradition of reuniting Elmhurst and the surrounding community every February to celebrate Brian Wagner's life received incredible support and created an environment of encouragement and camaraderie.

In addition, to the tournament itself thousands of dollars in raffle prizes were donated by local businesses and gifted to those in attendance.

Nicola Doherty-Caso, fund director, expressed, "I have come to understand what an amazing person Brian was through his wonderful family and friends. I am proud to be a part of the cause and our commitment to awarding scholarships to young people who inspire others, like Brian did. The continuous outpouring of community support is a testament to his memory."

The committee gives special recognition to Linda Roberts, Visitation Parish and Mama Maria's Restaurant for making the evening possible.

Students who wish apply in future years will have the opportunity to tell their personal stories and share experiences of how their leadership experience has impacted the community and the lives of others. For information, visit [www.BrianEWagnerFund.org](http://www.BrianEWagnerFund.org) (<http://www.BrianEWagnerFund.org>).

## **Topics in this Article**

Brian E. Wagner Scholarship Fund, Nicola Doherty Caso, York Community, IC Catholic Prep, Edwin Wagner, Linda Roberts, Timothy Christian, Megan Stotts, Mama Maria