

one of their living relatives at length. At the program, the students presented the stories of their relatives to a the crowd enjoyed a buffet of different ethnic dishes and favorite family treats, brought in by the students.

Brian E. Wagner Scholarship Tournament continues its success

The Brian E. Wagner Scholarship Fund (BEWSF) held its 9th annual Bags for Wags fundraiser, making this the most profitable event since the organization's inception nearly a decade ago.

The BEWSF's mission is to encourage young leaders to make a positive impact in their lives and the prosperity of their communities through volunteer service. The cause commemorates the life of Brain Edwin Wagner who passed away in an accident in 1993. His spirit of making a difference is remembered through this scholarship.

The organization has bestowed this honor to more than 20 college bound high school seniors from Fenwick, IC Catholic Prep, Montini Catholic, Timothy Christian and York. The funds raised at the recent charity event will be used to defer the first year tuition costs for the recipients who are selected this spring.

Some of the past scholarship winners and their family members were in attendance including the: Borel, Carey, Doherty, Hill, King, Pukala and Russ families. The proceeds from the tournament were derived from: raffle prizes, silent auction items, gifted by local businesses and donations from participants and spectators. Event sponsors included Guaranteed Rate, Mama Maria's Restaurant and Visitation Parish.

Scholarship recipient weighs in

Kristen Borel, an inaugural scholarship recipient from 2012, shared her thoughts at the event.

"The scholarship not only helps students and families financially, it

challenges young leaders and gives them the confidence to embrace their strengths in an effort to continue Brian's legacy of leadership and service," she said. "Brian was a very admirable person and his genuine character continues to inspire and motivate young leaders to do their very best in college and beyond. The cause brings people together and embodies a strong sense of community which continues to make a lasting impression in so many lives."

More information about the BEWSF can be found at BrianEWagnerFund.org.



SUBMITTED PHOTO *Elmhurst Independent*

Pictured here at the 9th annual Bags for Wags fundraiser, held by the Brian E. Wagner Scholarship Fund (BEWSF), are Kristen Borel and Misty Zamar. Borel was one of the first recipients of a Brian E. Wagner Scholarship.



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