**Taking Back Tomorrow Scholarship**

**The Taking Back Tomorrow Scholarship Fund**

**Description:**The Taking Back Tomorrow Scholarship Fund awards an annual scholarship to one Madison Central High School student, a college-bound high school senior, based on the demonstrated ability to overcome a life obstacle in pursuit of their higher education.

**Area Profile and Deficit:** IRS rules are designed to make sure that scholarship programs benefit a broad charitable class of beneficiaries and that the process is nondiscriminatory.In order for the Taking Back Tomorrow Scholarship Fund to act legally, a description of profile and deficit is necessary.

Richmond is a home rule-class city in Madison County, Kentucky. The city is situated among the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. The Kentucky River comprises the northern border of Madison County, demarcating Richmond from other neighboring cities and towns; the cities placements situates it about 20 miles from neighboring city, Lexington, KY, and an hour from the more urban, Louisville, KY.

The chances of becoming a victim of a violent crime in Richmond are roughly 1 in 305, and for a victim of a property crime – including burglary, theft, or motor vehicle theft – are 1 in 24, both drawing even with or being slightly above the U.S. average (Federal Bureau of Investigation [FBI], 2016). Moreover, then, Richmond is a placeholder in rural America with a small-town feel, but with an urban character. The Richmond Police Department declared the heroin problem in Richmond to be an “epidemic,” claiming that “the drug is being trafficked down I-75 from Michigan and possibly making its way from Kentucky to Georgia or Florida” (Insco, 2014). Now, the Richmond Police Department Narcotics Unit is partnered with the Madison County HIDTA Drug Task Force. It falls under the overall command of Assistant Chief Robert Mott. Mott has spoken adamantly about the drug problems in Richmond, but also about complex interlocking issues that make it less safe than a normal town its size, saying "It's not only aggravating because they're bringing drugs into our community, but they're committing other crimes too…We've had several incidents of assaults. We had a kidnapping recently involving people from Detroit. They're in here causing all kinds of problems” (Insco, 2014).

Richmond, KY’s population is just over 30,000 people, but when Eastern Kentucky University comes into session, it draws individuals from all across the United States, usually enhancing the population by nearly 20,000+ people or more. This rise in population makes Richmond the third largest city behind Lexington and Louisville in the Bluegrass Region. Many of its residents commonly experience problems that go beyond the suburban or rural construct expected of a place with its size. It is through the lens of the following problems related to drugs, violence, and crime that this scholarship serves the community of Richmond, KY, awarding its monies to leaders of our future, one Madison Central High School student who overcame some obstacle in pursuit of their higher education. In a world where tomorrow is never promised, and yesterday, we can never get back, through our stories, we reclaim the strength to carry on, taking back tomorrow.

**Criteria:** The students eligible for assistance must be graduating high school seniors who reside in Richmond, KY and intend to continue their education at a vocational school, two-year community college, career college, four-year college, and/or university. Consideration will be given to academic potential, the student’s description of community service, the burden of the obstacle they overcome, and what they learned from overcoming their obstacle. Additional criteria will evaluate how the entry reflects command of basic focus and reveals the writer’s commitment and passion toward their subject; if the entry has originality in expression and is clear and concise in its delivery; whether the writer has generated good ideas and expressed those ideas in complete thoughts, connected to individual and collective importance.

**Guidelines and Eligibility:**To be eligible for the scholarship, Students must attend Madison Central High School. Student must submit a short essay of 500-650 words by April 15th, 2019 that will be judged by a blind committee according to a special rubric. Scholarships will be awarded on an annual basis and disbursed in full payment in August. The scholarship can only be awarded to seniors who graduate.

**Amount:** The recipient will receive a check of $1,500 at the opening of the Fall 2019 Semester, written to the Bursar of the college of their choice in the name of Chuckie Campbell Music. Second and Third Places will receive two $20 gift cards for their work and be recognized along with the winner in Bryant & Stratton College's Student Newspaper, *The Voice*.

**Renewal Process:** This scholarship is not renewable. Previous scholarship recipients cannot re-apply.

**Scholarship Committee:**

Dr. Carolyn Benton – Author of *Human Kaleidoscopes: Cultivating Success in Nontraditional Students*

Dr. Charles Campbell – Chair of English and Communications at Bryant & Stratton College; Promoter, Talent Buyer, Booking Agent, and Artist at *Deep Thinka Records*

Scott Reimann – Instructor of English at Bryant & Stratton College

Chantal Michaux-Kokin – Assessment and Advisement Instructor at Buffalo Public Schools

Offsite organizer: Susan Cintra, High School English Instructor at Madison Central High School

**2017 WINNERS**

1. **Shamus Pape**

2.) **Christopher Tyler Henry**

3.) **Alexa Snyder**

**2018 WINNERS**

1. **Lauren Jordan**
2. **Hannah Burchell**
3. **Kellie Peavier**