

HEALTH AND WELLNESS FOUNDATION OF PIKE COUNTY

112 W. Washington, PO Box 81, Pittsfield, IL 62363
217-285-6080 ichcf@aol.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Patricia McIntosh, Executive Director
Health and Wellness Foundation of Pike County**

**February 23, 2011
217-285-6080**

Health and Wellness Foundation of Pike County Accepting Applications for 2011 John S. Teuscher Health Occupation Scholarships

The Health and Wellness Foundation of Pike County (HWFPC), formerly known as Illini Community Health Care Foundation, today announced that it is now accepting applications for its 2011 John S. Teuscher Health Occupation Scholarship Program.

The Scholarship, established in October of 2005, was created to encourage and support graduating high school seniors planning to pursue careers in a health field. HWFPC's Health Occupation Scholarship Program awards 2 (two) scholarships annually to Pike County graduating seniors who will be pursuing a degree in a health-related profession. Scholarship grants are in the amount of \$1000 each, to be used for tuition, books, materials, room and board at an accredited educational institution in the United States. Scholarship applications may be obtained from all Pike County High School guidance counselors. Deadline for submitting applications to this program is April 15, 2011.

Applications are also available for HWFPC's Workforce Retraining Scholarship. This scholarship enables Pike County individuals already in the workforce to go back to school to pursue education in a health field or to seek supplementary certifications or training in a particular health occupation. Up to 2 (two) \$1000 scholarships will be awarded in this program annually and may be applied for up to 3 successive years. Applications can be obtained from the Foundation office at 112 W. Washington, Pittsfield, IL or by calling 217-285-6080. The deadline for submitting this scholarship application to the Foundation office is May 1, 2011.

- MORE -

“We continue to see a shortage nationally of qualified health practitioners,” said Patty McIntosh, HWFPC Executive Director. “In the Department of Health and Human Services’ February 15, 2011 report on Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) statistics , it was estimated that in Illinois alone 2,224,565 individuals were underserved by primary care providers. Rural areas are affected more greatly by this shortage than metropolitan areas. Our hope is that our scholarships can assist talented youth to pursue their goal of serving in the health care industry.”

McIntosh went on to say, “Last year’s recipients of the Health Occupation Scholarship were Natalie Brummell of Rockport who is attending SIU Edwardsville and Jonathan Hansen of Pittsfield who is attending Quincy University. Theresa Halpin of Pittsfield was the recipient of last year’s Workforce Retraining Scholarship.” HWFPC bases its selection on several criteria, including health profession sought, commitment to community service, and the contents of a 500 word essay describing why the student wants to pursue a health profession.

Health and Wellness Foundation of Pike County is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) Corporation whose healthcare mission is realized through a program of thoughtful grantmaking and fund development. You can find out more about HWFPC and its programs by contacting them at 217-285-6080 or emailing ichcf@aol.com.

-END-