

From the community:

## Brian E. Wagner Fund Raises \$3500 for Annual College Scholarship



Becky Lawton-Wagner, Barbara Wagner-Lackey (BEWSF Directors) and Tom Hagensee (Tournament Director) prepare for a momentous evening at the annual Bags for Wags fundraiser. (Posted by peterzamar, Community Contributor)

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By Community Contributor peterzamar

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**T**he BEWSF held their 5th Bags for Wags Tournament at Visitation's Valentino Center. The annual event is held in tribute to Brian Edwin Wagner an exemplary young leader who passed away at the age of 17, in a tragic auto accident prior to his senior year at York Community High School. The fundraiser was enjoyed by loyal supporters and local residents. \$3500 in proceeds were collected, all of which will be granted as a one time college scholarship to three high school seniors who emulate Brian's finest qualities: integrity, perseverance and leadership.

Ryan Russ, a 2014 scholarship recipient opened the evening with a speech that attributed the BEWSF for making a difference and opening doors in his life. Ryan also reflected on how Brian's legacy actively gives back to the heart of the Elmhurst Community. Brian Doherty, (York Alum- Class of 1994) built and painted 18 sets of boards for the tournament in memory of his good friend, Brian Wagner. Over 50 local retailers donated their products and services as raffle prizes at this highly anticipated gathering. Premium prizes like: an autographed Chicago Bears football; tickets to a Whitesox home game and autographed Blackhawks jerseys from several star players were awarded to lucky winners! Rick and Donna Tatar, who attend and play in the tournament each year stated, "Bags for Wags is so well organized and lots of fun. It is a great night out with friends to have a good time while supporting an honorable cause."

The BEWSF encourages outstanding students who serve as emerging leaders in their community to apply for next year's award. Applicants will have the opportunity to express how they have made a positive impact in their lives and the lives of others. The qualifying criteria must be fulfilled:

Must have graduated 8th grade from a school in Elmhurst, IL. or be currently enrolled as a senior at a high school in Elmhurst, IL.

- Participated in a minimum of 3 extracurricular activities during time spent in high school
- Submit 2 letters of recommendation from a teacher, coach, boss, community leader, etc.
- Fulfilled 25 hours of volunteer service with an organization that supports a cause you'd like to commit and contribute to.

The application timeline and additional information can be found at [www.BrianEWagnerFund.org](http://www.BrianEWagnerFund.org).

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