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Brian E. Wagner Scholarships Awarded to Three Elmhurst Students

May 24, 2012

The Brian E. Wagner Scholarship Fund (BEWSF) raised \$8,000 at its premier fundraiser.

The first Brian Wagner Golf Outing welcomed 66 golfers during a beautiful spring afternoon at the Bloomingdale Golf Club May 11. The evening commenced with a dinner reception and silent auction attended by golf participants and many of Brian's close family and friends.



Community members reunited to commemorate the life of Brian Edwin Wagner, who died in an automobile accident in 1993.

Barbara Wagner and Dan Gibbons, BEWSF directors who have served as leaders in Elmhurst for many years, addressed guests with heartfelt speeches reflecting on Brian's life and how the scholarship fund pays tribute to his character.

BEWSF President Peter Zamar announced the three inaugural scholarship recipients: Kristen Borel (York High School), Dan Vatch (Immaculate Conception High School) and Brooke Wagner, no relation to Brian Wagner and family (Timothy Christian High School). Each received \$2,500 toward tuition for their first semester in college this fall. Special recognition was also given to Mike Wagner, Brian's brother, who led the effort in organizing this special event.

Barbara Wagner, Brian's mother, remarked, "Being able to grant scholarships to these three outstanding students is the crowning touch of what we are all about."

Kristen Borel commented, "I have worked very hard in all of my leadership roles throughout high school. It's a great accomplishment and privilege to continue Brian's legacy as I continue my education and enhance my leadership skills at the University of Iowa. I plan to continue my volunteer services at local food pantries as well as many service projects through my sorority."

Dan Vatch said, "This scholarship has made a difference for me and my family not only financially, but also emotionally. Getting to know who Brian was and getting to know his family and friends has been a blessing. It motivates me to continue working hard in college and afterwards. I plan on majoring in sports management and playing football and track at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, next fall."

Brooke Wagner stated, "When I received the scholarship, I felt like all my hard work and smart decision making finally paid off. Having the honor of receiving this award proves that all I went through made me the person I am today. In the fall, I intend to major in nursing at Elmhurst College and will continue to be a leader in on-campus activities, such as student ministries and intramural sports."

The BEWSF Committee thanks all of its loyal supporters for making this new tradition a reality and expresses gratitude to everyone who continues to build the cause in order to leave a legacy in Brian's name. They anticipate future opportunities to pass the torch to emerging young leaders that exemplify the potential and leadership qualities Brian possessed.

Elmhurst Patch

By Karen Chadra (Open Post) May 24, 2012 at 4:32pm

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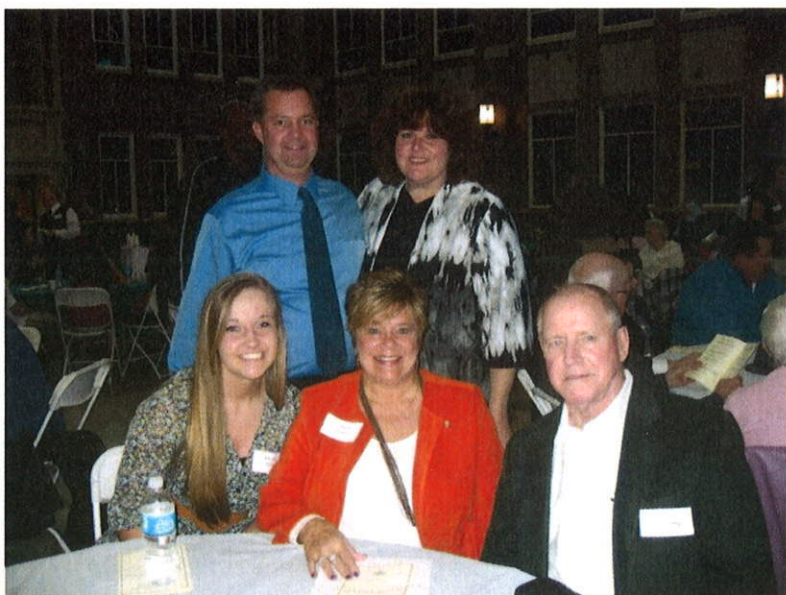
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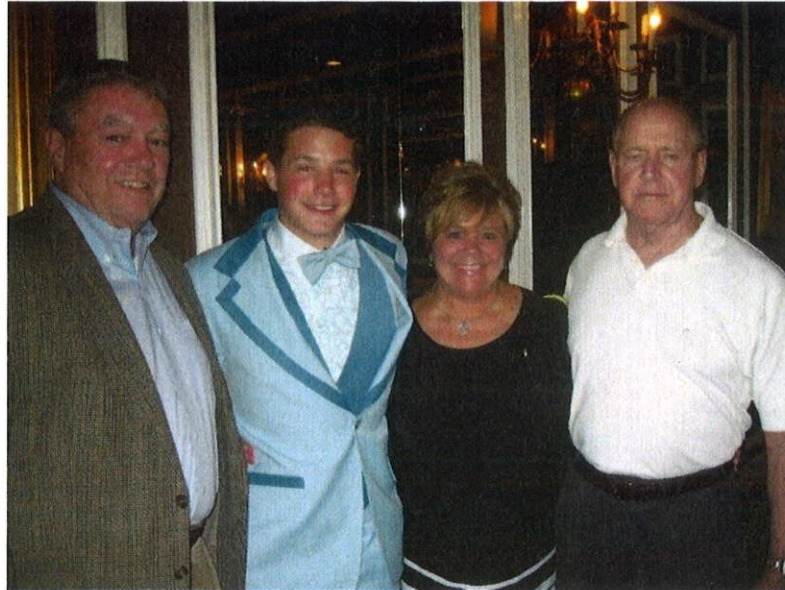
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