



# Community Foundation of Wabash County

*We're here for giving. We're here for good.*

## Press Release

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*P.O. Box 98, 218 E. Main Street  
N. Manchester, IN 46962*

**Phone:** 260/982-4824

**Fax:** 260/982-8644

**Website:** [www.cfwabash.org](http://www.cfwabash.org)

**E-mail:** [info@cfwabash.org](mailto:info@cfwabash.org)

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**Contact:** Maryhelen Chadwick ([mhchadwick@yahoo.com](mailto:mhchadwick@yahoo.com))

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### Foundation announces Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship recipients

Two Wabash County students will receive four-year scholarships as the Community Foundation of Wabash County, Inc. 2008 Lilly Endowment Community Scholars.

Southwood High School (SHS) students Amanda Dubuque and Ann Marie Elliot will receive full tuition to the Indiana colleges they choose and an \$800 yearly stipend for required books and equipment.

**Dubuque** is the daughter of Ronda Dubuque of Wabash and Mark Dubuque of Wabash. She ranks fifth in a class of 96 students. Throughout her high school career, Dubuque placed a priority on academics and a variety of school activities and has been rewarded with leadership roles and honors for her efforts.

According to her résumé, the 10-year 4-H member is active in student government, music and athletics at SHS. She is a four-year member of student congress, serving as vice-president this year. She was elected class treasurer for the 2007-08 school year. She also is active in the Peers Educating Peers (PEP) Leadership Team and was inducted into the National Honor Society.

She has shared her love for performing as a four-year member of the drama club and choir. On the athletic field, Dubuque has contributed her skill as a cheerleader, golfer and tennis player—earning all conference status as a tennis player during her junior year.

Outside of school, Dubuque holds a part-time job at Fast Break Gourmet Coffee and babysits. In addition, she finds time to volunteer for several local nonprofit organizations and her church where she has worked with children in vacation Bible school and as a nursery volunteer.

The work Dubuque has done with children likely will help in her career as a child trauma psychologist.

“I dream of talking to children and helping them overcome extreme mental and emotional suffering. I dream of improving the quality of life for children who cannot choose their environmental circumstances,” Dubuque wrote in an application essay.

**Elliot** is the daughter of Traci Elliot of Wabash and Michael Elliott of Wabash. She is ninth in the class of 96 students. She describes herself as a person who “aims to impact the world.”

She has made her presence felt at SHS as an active student citizen. While working toward an honors diploma, Elliot was inducted into the National Honor Society and served in student congress, class cabinet, PEP, drama club and choir—earning a spot in the County Honors Choir in each of her high school years. She also wrote a regular column about school life for *The Wabash Plain Dealer*.

When not in school, Elliott works part-time as a cashier at Bechtol’s Grocery Company. In addition, she works with children as a church volunteer. Twice a month she teaches Sunday school and each summer she dedicates six

weeks to working as a counselor at a church camp. Elliot plans to translate her desire to help children into a career as a pediatrician.

“There is just something about impacting the life of someone so young and impressionable in a positive way that gives my life meaning; what better way to change the future for the world than to change that of a child?” Elliot wrote in her application.

Dubuque and Elliot were chosen from 35 eligible applicants for the Lilly Endowment Scholarship. Selections were made based on academic performance, extracurricular/work/community service activities, references and an interview. After the Foundation’s scholarship committee narrowed the field to two nominees and one alternate, the finalists’ names were submitted to Independent Colleges of Indiana, Inc. (ICI) for the selection of the recipients.

ICI is a nonprofit corporation that represents 31 regionally accredited degree granting, nonprofit, private colleges and universities in the state.

The scholarships are the result of a statewide Lilly Endowment initiative to help Hoosier students reach higher levels of education. Indiana ranks among the lowest states in the percentage of residents over the age of 25 with a bachelor’s degree. There were 216 scholarships awarded statewide in 2007

Lilly Endowment, Inc. scholarships are awarded only in Indiana counties with a Community Foundation. Since the program began 10 years ago, 2,697 scholarships have been awarded. The Foundation is responsible for the application process and candidate selection. It also maintains contact with these scholars as they conduct their studies and beyond.



**Photo Caption** (seated from left): Ronda DuBuque, Amanda DuBuque, Ann Marie Elliott, Southwood High School Principal Jean Shonkwiler, (standing from left): Mark DuBuque, Community Foundation of Wabash County Assistant Director Shelly Leifer, Michael Elliott.

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