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## Teens given grants from Cambria Hts. Development

By Howard Koplowitz

**The president of the Cambria Heights Local Development Corporation announced the first winners of the Jack Thompson Memorial Scholarship last week at the Cambria Heights Civic Association's last meeting of the year.**

Thompson, who died about a year ago of an undisclosed illness at 78, was a former president of the civic group and was known as "The Mayor of Cambria Heights" for his contributions to the community as a civic leader.

Kevin Jemmott, president of the development corporation, said Thompson made it known before he died that he wanted a scholarship formed in his name following his death, in lieu of flowers. Jemmott said Thompson wanted the scholarship to be open to students attending the Campus Magnet schools in Cambria Heights. Emphasis would be placed on pupils who demonstrated community service. Advertisement

"That was Jack's goal to get students to start thinking about volunteering," Jemmott said.

The scholarship fund raised \$9,000 since Thompson's death Aug. 17.

A committee consisting of Gloria Black, chairwoman of Community Board 12; Eva Duzant, secretary of the development corporation; and Vernell Bennett, the president of the 223/224th Street Civic Association of Laurelton, judged the applicants.

The winners were not present at the meeting and Jemmott said he would notify them over the weekend.

Tonya Barrett of Math, Science Research and Technology Magnet High School was chosen as the first place winner and will receive \$1,000 at her graduation. Jemmott said Barrett was accepted to Sarah Lawrence College and the University of Hartford. She was on her school's honor roll from 2002 to the present and volunteered for a local animal clinic and the Special Olympics.

Michael Smith of the Law and Government Magnet High School will receive \$750 for second place. A volunteer for state Assemblywoman Barbara Clark's (D-Queens Village) office, he will attend Manhattan Community College, Village) office. Smith teaches martial arts to neighborhood youth.

Stephanie November, also of the Law and Government Magnet High School, came in third and will receive \$500. She will attend Brooklyn College as a pre-med student and had 480 hours as a clerical assistant at Campus Magnet and also volunteered to bring meals to senior citizens at her neighborhood Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Only five students applied for the scholarships. Jemmott said he hoped more will apply next year after the winners' classmates see them getting their checks at graduation.

"A lot of scholarships go unclaimed for some reason," Jemmott said.

The civic's June 14 meeting at the MBU Bridge Home was an end-of-year party.

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