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**Three High School Seniors in Lemont Receive  
Volunteerism Scholarships from Lemont Junior Woman's Club**

**Lemont, Ill. – June 6, 2011** – Three recent high school graduates from Lemont each received \$1,500 scholarships from the Lemont Junior Woman's Club to recognize their outstanding contributions to the community through volunteerism. Abigail Korte and Robert Smierciak received their scholarship awards at the Lemont High School honors night. Katherine Maslar, a recent graduate of Mother McAuley High School, received her award at Franciscan Village's Mother Theresa Home, where she has been a regular volunteer for more than two years.

"Each of our winners excels in academics, leadership and extra-curricular activities," said BJ Marshall, the club's Education Committee Chairperson. "But their commitment to volunteerism and community service is extraordinary. Lemont is fortunate to have such incredible young people who are dedicated to helping others and enriching the lives of our residents."

**Abigail Korte**

Under the leadership of Abigail Korte, the Lemont Juniorettes service organization has flourished. The group's membership has tripled since she became its president, which allowed Korte to add numerous projects to the group's roster of service opportunities. Korte and her fellow members have volunteered at a wide range of events and programs from the HOPE closet to Ronald McDonald House to Heritage Fest. In addition to her service through the Juniorettes, Korte has volunteered at Lemont Safety

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Village, Spring Fling and her church's youth ministry. Last summer, she spent a week with 400 other students helping to create a space for a children's park in Chicago through the Catholic Heart Work Camp. Korte also played clarinet in the Lemont High School marching band, participated in spring musicals, worked on her school's literary magazine and studied dance since the age of three. She was also the Irish Queen in this year's St. Patrick's Day parade. Korte plans to study psychology in college.

In her scholarship application essay, Korte said:

“I have seen firsthand the vitality of volunteerism within the community of Lemont. It is inspiring to know the town that I call home is filled with volunteers, both young and old, committed to making our part of the world a better place.”

**Katherine Maslar**

Working with older residents is one of the passions of Katherine Maslar, a recent graduate of Mother McAuley High School. Maslar has volunteered at Franciscan Village’s Mother Theresa Home for more than two years, spending Saturday mornings and summer weekdays playing bingo with residents and giving manicures while listening to stories about their lives. She also has supported needy families and community events as a member of the Lemont Junioresettes, as well as volunteering at a youth tennis camp and at the Lemont Public Library. In addition to her community service work, Maslar was the captain of her school’s varsity tennis team and was involved in numerous clubs and leadership roles throughout high school. She plans to attend St. Louis University in the fall to study nursing.

In her scholarship application essay she said:

“Spending time with my elderly friends has made me want to go into nursing, possibly even geriatrics. I believe that my service at Franciscan Village Nursing Home has impacted myself as a member of the Lemont community more than the residents. I have discovered my passion for helping people and my service is a direct cause of this.”

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**Robert Smierciak**

As president of Lemont High School’s Community Service for Everyone organization, Robert Smierciak has not only devoted his time to helping those in need but also to inspiring his peers to do the same. He has volunteered at both Franciscan Village and Holy Family Villa nursing homes and has worked regularly at local food pantries. Smierciak also spent one week last summer repairing homes for impoverished families in Appalachia. In addition to his community service work, Smierciak played varsity golf, captained his school’s Scholastic Bowl team, played bass and guitar in a band, and won at the state level in poetry reading, among numerous other extracurricular and academic pursuits. He plans to attend Northwestern University, where he will study economics or history.

In his scholarship application essay, Smierciak said about his trip to Appalachia:

“We arrived with work gloves, a tool belt and the desire to pitch in. We left with real world skills and incredible insight into the lives of people who live in community where almost everyone is in need. Returning to Lemont after spending a week in Harlan was quite an eye opener. You see you own community in a different light; not just how fortunate we are, but also how much must go into keeping Lemont so nice for so many different kinds of citizens.

“Volunteerism is what our organization is all about, and we’re proud to honor these outstanding young people for demonstrating a commitment to community service,” said LJWC President Michelle Slater.

Since its founding in 1993, the Lemont Junior Woman’s Club has provided financial and volunteer support to educational, civic and philanthropic efforts that enriches the lives of citizens in our community. Members volunteer more than 7,000 hours and raise more than \$25,000 each year to benefit the community. The goal of the club’s efforts is to help fulfill the basic needs of Lemont citizens of all ages with an emphasis on children, who are the future of our community.

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[Note to editors: Full transcripts of the winners’ essays are available for publication by request.]