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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PHOTO ATTACHED: Caption at bottom of this release

Bridge Communities Awards College Scholarships to Formerly Homeless Teens

On August 10, 2009, Bridge Communities – a non-profit, transitional housing program serving homeless families in DuPage County presented college scholarships to eight formerly homeless teens. Each college bound student was awarded the \$1,000 scholarship based on their academic achievements and a personal essay that told of their future pursuits.

At the award ceremony, students shared where they plan to attend – or currently attend – college and their field of studies. The students' colleges and interests vary, including an architectural engineering major, a chemistry major and fashion design major. But what all the students share, is a past that includes homelessness. Each of the young adults' families are either currently enrolled or were a former client family in Bridge Communities' Transitional Housing Program.

First-time award recipient, Adelbert (last name deleted for privacy) shared, "I have come to understand that my future is in my own hands and I don't plan on running it into the ground. Furthermore, I know because of organizations like Bridge Communities, my family back home is alright and taken care of, and that I can focus on pursuing my own goals." Adelbert will soon begin his second year at Winona State University with a major in chemistry and a minor in psychology. He hopes to someday work for Mayo Clinic in Rochester.

Bridge Communities president, Mark Milligan thanked the Bridge Builders for raising the funds needed to provide these talented teens with their generous scholarship. The Bridge Builders are dynamic, enthusiastic group of local residents that take a hands-on approach to enhancing the lives of Bridge families, particularly creating exceptional experiences for the children and youth in our Transitional Housing.

The Bridge Builders' invite the public to a **Hot Night, Cool Cause** at The McAninch Arts Center (MAC) at The College of DuPage, 425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn from 7:30 p.m. until midnight. There will be music, dancing, hors d'oeuvres, a fabulous silent auction and cash bar. While there is no ticket price, donations are greatly desired and appreciated. Please RSVP to bridgebuildersge@yahoo.com with your name, address and number attending.

Bridge Communities... *connecting homeless families to a better future* ... is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, with offices in Glen Ellyn, whose mission is to provide transitional

housing to homeless families in DuPage County through partnerships with faith-based and community organizations who provide mentoring relationships which root homeless families into local neighborhoods. In the past 20 years, Bridge Communities has helped over 2000 people cross the bridge from homelessness to permanent housing. Visit www.bridgecommunities.org for more information about how Bridge is transforming the lives of DuPage County homeless families.

Photo Caption: Mark Milligan, president Bridge Communities presents a \$1,000 scholarship award to Adelbert.