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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **College Scholarship Award Winners Announced by Community Choice Foundation -- \$100,000 to Fuel 20 More Dreams**

**Farmington Hills, MI** – The 11<sup>th</sup> annual Community Choice Foundation Scholarship Program has awarded 20 scholarships to Michigan high school seniors soon heading off to college, and in doing so **topping the \$1.1 million mark in awards to date**. The winners were each accepted to a Michigan college or university and have a passion for community involvement. Each student was recently awarded one of 20 individual \$5,000 scholarships.

Founded 10 years ago in 2009, the Community Choice Foundation Scholarship Program was inspired during the 2008 recession to encourage successful graduating high school students to pursue their post-secondary education in Michigan and keep their talents here.

“At that time, Michigan was suffering a serious case of ‘Brain Drain’ during a difficult financial time for most families,” said Robert Bava, president and CEO of Community Choice Credit Union. “We decided to go out on a limb and stretch our own resources to do our part in trying to reverse such a trend, and we honestly didn’t know if this were a program we could sustain. But here we are 10 years later, full of pride and joy in knowing we have greatly impacted the lives of over 200 students who are now poised to impact even more lives in their careers and community service.”

**The winners are** (Name, city, school, college accepted):

Joshua Agius, Commerce Twp., Walled Lake Northern High School, University of Michigan

Kelly Rumon, Livonia, Stevenson High School, Madonna University

Gracen Minor, Sterling Hgts., Paul K. Cousino High School, Michigan State University

Chloe Goff, Hillsdale, Hillsdale High School, Adrian College

Jeswin David, Livonia, Detroit Catholic Central, Michigan State University

Allison Frazer, Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe South High School, University of Michigan

Mason Beaker, Brighton, Brighton High School, University of Michigan

Abbie Bushinski, (Roger Rowland Winner), Jackson, Northwest High School, Central Michigan University

Joseph Proctor, Livonia, Churchill High School, Grand Valley State University

Peyton McCarley, Livonia, Stevenson High School, Wayne State University

Audrey Rancourt, Grosse Pointe Woods, Grosse Pointe North High School, Michigan State University

Vincent Gaytan, Marine City, Marine City High School, Oakland University

Tyler Upton, Ray, Armada High School, Grand Valley State University

Julie Sheldon, Waterford, International Academy OKMA, University of Michigan

Morgan Pillard, Lansing, Lansing Catholic High School, Ferris State University

Cameron Siegel, Rochester, Macomb Dakota High School, Wayne State University

Shahrazad Louis, Bloomfield Hills, Bloomfield Hills High School, University of Detroit Mercy

Thomas Dietrich, Livonia, Churchill High School, University of Michigan

Andrew Schaeffler, West Bloomfield, West Bloomfield High School, University of Michigan

Kody Drewer, Mendon, Mendon High School, Western Michigan University

To be eligible for scholarships, applicants must live in Michigan, plan on attending a Michigan college or university, and pledge to stay in Michigan after college to pursue their careers and give back to their communities. A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required along with a strong record of volunteerism or public service. Scholarships are awarded to students based on academic performance, community involvement, and a short, written essay describing how they plan to contribute to their community and Michigan through their chosen career.

**About Community Choice Foundation:** Since 2008 Community Choice Credit Union has put its Give Big philosophy into action through the Community Choice Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. The Foundation is committed to improving the communities served by Community Choice Credit Union through donations and volunteerism, as well as a scholarship program that provides 20 scholarships each year totaling \$100,000 to local students who pledge to attend college in Michigan and commit to giving back to the state by building their careers here. To date, the Foundation has donated more than \$1 million to local charitable programs and events.

**About Community Choice Credit Union:** Established in 1935, Community Choice Credit Union offers a wide variety of financial products and services for both consumers and businesses. Any individual who lives, works, studies or worships in the state of Michigan is eligible to become a member. Since 2008, Community Choice has invested more than \$1 million and 20,156 volunteer hours into its charitable Give Big efforts throughout Michigan. If you're looking for an experience that's different from your current banking relationship, let's get together. For more information, visit [CommunityChoiceCU.com](http://CommunityChoiceCU.com).

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