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ST. DAVID'S FOUNDATION SUPPORTS HEALTHCARE STUDENTS' FUTURES
36 Central Texas students to receive scholarships from Toast of the Town funds

AUSTIN – St. David's Foundation announces 36 scholarships to be awarded to graduating high school seniors from the Central Texas area. Formal presentation of the scholarships will take place on August 10th at a special ceremony honoring recipients and their families.

“These incredible students deserve the best that education has to offer,” said Earl Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation. “Many have overcome tremendous challenges, yet they have excelled academically. Our sincere hope is to help pave the way for these students' future educational endeavors.”

The St. David's Neal Kocurek Scholarship Fund provides each student with \$6,000 per year for four years, to be used for tuition and other expenses at a Texas university or college. Applicants must be graduating seniors within the school districts of Travis, Williamson, or Hays counties, and in pursuit of healthcare-related careers.

Funds for the scholarships are raised annually from Toast of the Town, a series of fundraising parties held each spring. In 2011 more than \$380,000 has been raised for the scholarship fund. In addition, the Foundation matches funds raised by Toast of the Town for a total of over \$760,000 given to scholarship recipients.

As part of the St. David's Neal Kocurek Scholarship program, a mentor from St. David's HealthCare will be paired with each scholarship recipient, providing students with the opportunity to interact directly with healthcare professionals in their chosen career.

One of those mentors is Todd Steward, Chief Executive Officer of St. David's South Austin Medical Center, who said, “What a rewarding experience it has been to provide guidance and support to these bright, accomplished students. I look forward to seeing what the future holds in store for these capable young people. I know that in every case, both mentor and student have benefited from this program.”

On August 10th, St. David's Foundation will conduct a daylong college preparatory workshop for the recipients, where they will meet their mentors. The day will culminate in a special presentation banquet attended by the scholarship recipients and their families.

THE ST. DAVID'S NEAL KOCUREK SCHOLARSHIP FUND:

St. David's Foundation established the St. David's Neal Kocurek Scholarship fund to honor its late president and CEO, W. Neal Kocurek, Ph.D. (1936-2004). The scholarship program seeks students who embody Dr. Kocurek's commitment to leadership and community service in Central Texas.

ST. DAVID'S FOUNDATION:

The vision of St. David's Foundation is to keep the promise of a better life by improving health and health care for all Central Texans. As a joint owner of St. David's HealthCare, the Foundation achieves its goals by investing the proceeds from the hospitals back into Central Texas. In 2010, the Foundation will directly invest \$27 million in the community through grants to mental health agencies, agencies serving older adults, ill and homeless populations, and many of the area's private safety net clinics, and the St. David's Dental Program. For more information on St. David's Foundation, visit www.stdavidsfoundation.org.