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KENTUCKIANA CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Louisville, Kentucky –The Kentuckiana Cancer Research Foundation (KCRF) is pleased to announce the recipients of its Third Annual Scholarship Program. This scholarship program exemplifies our commitment to fostering education and supporting outstanding individuals pursuing a career in cancer care.

The scholarships, awarded annually in July are available to residents both of Kentucky and Indiana who attend a higher educational institution and are pursuing a career in a cancer-related field.

Again, this year, we received a large pool of very qualified applicants. Following careful consideration and a rigorous selection process, three remarkable individuals were chosen. Recipients were selected based on their academic performance, financial need, extracurricular activities and leadership ability.

Lilly O'Shea of Valparaiso, Indiana, a medical student at Indiana University received a \$7,500 scholarship to apply towards her medical school tuition. She is weaving a Master's Degree in Clinical Research into her MD training. O'Shea is a first generation college student and hopes to be a pediatric neurosurgeon. She came highly recommended as a candidate for this award by her professors.

Matthew Sanders of London, Kentucky also received a \$7,500 scholarship for his studies. He is enrolled at University of Kentucky College of Medicine and has chosen a career in cancer care because he understands how deeply the diagnosis shapes lives in rural Kentucky. His goal is to become a physician-scientist who integrates mechanistic cancer research with direct patient care, with a focus on improving outcomes in underserved areas such as Appalachia.

One final scholarship of \$7,500 was awarded to Annmarie Freshour of Borden, Indiana. Freshour has an undergraduate degree from IU Southeast and is pursuing a Master's of Business Administration and a Doctor of Pharmacy Degree at Sullivan University College

of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. As a result of her mother's breast cancer journey, she decided that she wanted to become a pharmacist to care for others in the same exemplary way they cared for her mother.

In addition to these scholarships, KCRF awarded the University of Louisville Research Foundation a \$20,000 Research grant to support "A Pilot Study in Kentuckiana GBM Patients for Pharmacologic Targeting of N-acetyltransferase 1 in 3DPatient-Derived Glioblastoma Organoids," conducted by Principal Investigator, Joshua Hood MD, PhD. This grant application dovetailed perfectly with the goals and mission of KCRF.

"Curing cancer is a long and arduous process, but great strides are being made. We at KCRF are honored to make a small positive impact in that regard through our funding of this research project and the support of these future healthcare professionals," stated Dr. Renato La Rocca.

The formal application process for Scholarships and Research/Service Grants in 2027 will begin in March 2027.