



Media Contact:

Jen McFarland

jennifermcfarland@ryanbartelfoundation.org

(571) 207-5032

For Immediate Release February 1, 2023

**Ryan Bartel Foundation Launches \$2500 Heart of Humanity Award Scholarship on February 14
Recognizing High School Seniors Who Help Others Struggling Emotionally**

February 1, 2023 - Waterford, VA. The Ryan Bartel Foundation, a Loudoun County nonprofit focused on preventing youth suicide, has announced the launch of a new \$2,500 scholarship award called “The Heart of Humanity Award.”

The unique scholarship, a reboot of the Foundation’s former Acceptance of Others Award, recognizes young people who help others struggling with their mental health, with acceptance and respect without judgment. Through a significant endowment from the Foundation’s founders, the scholarship is intended to inspire a culture of peer-to-peer support, kindness and caring towards anyone going through a difficult time with their mental health that we hope to see in the community for years to come.

“We developed this unique award in memory of the values our son Ryan stood for,” says Suzie Bartel, Foundation Chair. “This award is not based on academic achievement, athletic prowess, or extracurricular leadership. This scholarship recognizes young people who constantly go out of their way to help their peers who are struggling with mental and emotional well-being. We know that young people turn to their peers first when they’re struggling; we want to encourage and reward those who help them because one kind act can save someone’s life.”

To mark the launch two scholarship awards of \$2500 each will be available. The scholarship is open to high school seniors attending public, private or home schools. To be considered for this award,

individuals cannot nominate themselves and must be nominated by a peer, classmate, friend, teammate, school staff or other member of the community who witnesses consistent acts of kindness, help and support from this individual towards their peers' mental wellness.

Val Walters, Executive Director of the Ryan Bartel Foundation adds, "What better way for an individual to say thank you to a peer who helps them get through a difficult time in life than to nominate them for the Heart of Humanity Award?"

For more information about this Award, visit ryanbartelfoundation.org/heartofhumanity. The nomination window opens on Valentine's Day, February 14, 2023, through March 30, 2023.

About Ryan Bartel Foundation

Ryan Bartel Foundation is a 501(c) 3 whose mission is to prevent youth suicide through awareness, upstream educational programs and activities that support and empower youth, families, and the community at-large through acceptance, connection, resiliency, and hope.

###

Copyright ©2023 Ryan Bartel Foundation

