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CONTACT: Wenona Wolf, Communication and Development Manager
wwolf@kidsforward.net, 608-284-0580 x 304

Kids Forward Announces Race to Equity Scholarship Winners *Scholarships Will Be Presented at Sept. 28 "Step Forward for Kids" Event*

MADISON, WI – Kids Forward announced today the winners of its 2017 Race to Equity scholarships. Aireyanna Conner from Madison East High School, Pablo Lozano of Kaukauna High School, Jenna Cornelius Daubon from Green Bay South West High School, and Jalen Turner of Pius XI Catholic High School will receive one-time scholarships to be used toward higher education expenses.

Scholarship applications were received from high school seniors throughout Wisconsin. Applications were judged based on students' ability to express the importance of racial equity in their community, and how it has personally affected their lives. The winning students exhibited an understanding, knowledge, and passion for racial equity and social justice in their personal essays.

"Kids Forward is excited to be presenting four scholarships to four very deserving Wisconsin high school students," said Ken Taylor, Executive Director of Kids Forward. "The student's passion and determination to play an active role in making our communities more equitable is inspiring and gives us hope for a brighter and more equitable future for every child and every family in Wisconsin."

The scholarships will be presented at the organization's annual fundraising event, "Step Forward for Kids: An Evening Celebrating Children and Families" on September 28, 2017 at the Madison Children's Museum. Tickets and sponsorships can be purchased online at www.kidsforward.net.

The "Step Forward for Kids" program will also feature a presentation of Giraffe Awards to Bronson Koenig of the Milwaukee Bucks, Doug Nelson, former president and CEO of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and VAHSAid, a student driven-organization from Verona Area High School working to eliminate poverty in Dane County and Wisconsin.

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Kids Forward, formerly the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families, advocates for effective, long-lasting solutions that break down barriers to success for children and families in Wisconsin. Using research and a community-informed approach, Kids Forward works to help every kid, every family, and every community thrive.