

Growing Number of Scholarships Awarded from the Bernie G. Yvon Memorial Fund

Six Outstanding Performing Arts Students Will Receive College Scholarships

JACKSONVILLE, Florida – October 1, 2018 — Six promising performing arts students have received college scholarships from a fund honoring Bernie G. Yvon, a beloved Chicago-area actor who passed away in 2014. The scholarships were made possible through the Bernie G. Yvon Memorial Fund, which was established at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida in 2015 by his parents and supported by contributions of hundreds of friends and colleagues.

Awards of \$500 each have been presented to these outstanding performing arts students for the 2018-2019 school year.

- **ANNIKA CHURCHILL** of Round Lake Beach, IL will use her scholarship at Long Island University – Post in Brookville, NY.
- **JOSEPH STORTI** of Downers Grove, IL will use his scholarship at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, IL.
- **TAHIRAH KHADIJA AGBAMUCHE** of Ft. Lauderdale, FL will use her scholarship at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA.
- **ALI BOURZGUI** of Pittsfield, MA will use his scholarship at Ithaca College in Ithaca, NY.
- **ANYA EPSTEIN** of Pittsburgh, PA will use her scholarship at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA.
- **NOLAN ROBINSON** of Evanston, IL will use his scholarship at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL.

“We’re so pleased to be able to offer six scholarships this year—it’s a growing testimony to the impact that Bernie had and continues to have on so many around him,” his father, Professor Bernard Rene Yvon, commented. “As we said when we established the scholarship, Bernie had a happy life, and he made many other people happy. We want to give others the opportunity to do the same.”

The Bernie G. Yvon Memorial Fund makes scholarships annually in Bernie’s memory; to donate to the fund, please go to www.jaxcf.org/donate, type Yvon in the search box and follow the instructions.

About Bernie G. Yvon (1964-2014)

Bernie was raised in Old Town, Maine and after graduation from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL, quickly became a fixture in Chicago-area live theater. For three decades, he was the consummate song-and-dance man, performing in such classics as *Cabaret*, *Mary Poppins*, *The Music Man*, and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. The majority of his career was in Chicago, but he played the role of Harry Houdini in the national tour of *Ragtime*, and also worked on Broadway and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC.

About The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida (www.jaxcf.org), Florida’s oldest and largest community foundation, works to stimulate philanthropy to build a better community. The Foundation helps donors invest their philanthropic gifts wisely, helps nonprofits serve the region effectively, and helps people come together to make the community a better place. Now in its 54th year, the Foundation has assets of \$398 million and has made \$450 million in grants since 1964.



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