

Grant Halliburton Foundation Offers Suicide Prevention Course and Awards \$5,000 Grant for School Counselor Training

Foundation has awarded \$16,000 in grants and scholarships since 2006

DALLAS --- The Grant Halliburton Foundation recently announced that it will offer a suicide prevention program aimed at teaching individuals how to recognize a person at risk for suicide, intervene and offer resources for help.

Earlier this year, the Foundation also gave \$5,000 to the Plano ISD Education Foundation to support ongoing training for school counselors and awarded \$2,500 in college scholarships.



*Esther Park accepts
\$1,000 scholarship
from Foundation*

Since its founding in 2006, the Foundation has awarded a total of \$16,000 in grants and scholarships. This includes:

- \$10,000 to support ongoing training for school counselors, including programs that increase their knowledge of mental health issues,
- \$3,500 in college scholarships for art students, and
- \$2,500 to support arts education programs for young people.

These gifts support the Foundation's mission to increase awareness and understanding of adolescent mental health issues. They also help to recognize and encourage young people in the arts.

SAVING LIVES: Suicide Prevention Course

In 2007, Foundation president Vanita Halliburton received certification to teach a nationally recognized suicide prevention program called QPR, which stands for "Question, Persuade and Refer."

Just as CPR provides life-saving skills that can restore breathing and circulation until health care providers arrive, QPR teaches people how to save lives through intervention at the point of a suicidal crisis. QPR is an easy-to-learn, three-step process that anyone can use to recognize the signs of suicidal risk and, most important, to intervene and refer a suicidal person to help. The course can be taught in 90 minutes and is offered by the Foundation at no charge to interested groups, which range from educators, counselors, nurses, PTA groups and youth workers to healthcare and community workers.

Nationwide, there are more than 3,000 certified QPR instructors. At present, the Foundation offers the only certified QPR instructor in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

SCHOOL COUNSELORS: A Guiding Force

There are more than 10,000 school counselors in Texas. Last year, it was estimated that less than 20 percent of these counselors attended the Texas Counseling Association's annual Professional Growth Conference, a primary resource for continuing education on adolescent issues. The Grant Halliburton Foundation has invested \$10,000 to send more counselors to this conference over the past two years.

"The Professional Growth Conference offers training on many topics that keep counselors attuned to the changing face of our adolescent population," noted Vanita Halliburton, co-founder and president of the Grant Halliburton Foundation. "It is critical that school counselors get the tools they need to help identify signs of distress in our children and teens. They are often the first to recognize that a young person needs help."

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS: Continuing the Legacy

In tribute to the creativity and artistic talent of Grant Halliburton, the Foundation annually awards college scholarships to graduating art students. In 2007, the Foundation's \$1,000 competitive scholarship was awarded to Esther Park of Plano West Senior High School in Plano, Texas. In addition, three \$500 scholarships were awarded to young artists at the 2007 Senior Art Exhibition at ArtCentre of Plano in March. The recipients were Corbin Claire of Plano East Senior High School, April Ashton of Plano Senior High School, and Rylan Yellman of Plano West Senior High School.



Foundation co-founder Alan Halliburton presents scholarship to Rylan Yellman.

About Grant Halliburton Foundation



The Grant Halliburton Foundation exists to promote awareness and understanding of adolescent mental health issues. It was established in 2006 in memory of a gifted young artist and musician who battled depression and bipolar disorder for several years before his death in November 2005 at the age of 19. A graduate of Plano West Senior High and student at The University of Texas at Austin, he left behind a great legacy of creative works, including music, writing and poetry, more than 100 paintings, and hundreds of sketches and drawings. The collection of his work, entitled *Journey: The Art, Music and Words of Grant Halliburton*, was exhibited at two galleries in 2006. More than 1,000 people attended the opening receptions.

For more information or to make a donation, go to www.GrantHalliburton.org.

The Grant Halliburton Foundation is a federally recognized 501(c)3 tax-exempt non-profit organization.