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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. James Mercy Scholarship Awarded to Christopher Lomax

June 29, 2016...Hornell, NY – St. James Mercy Hospital (SJMH) is pleased to announce that Christopher Lomax has been selected as the recipient of the 2016 SJMH Memorial Scholarship. The \$500 scholarship, which was established more than 20 years ago, is awarded annually in memory of deceased employees of St. James Mercy Hospital.

“This year, we are honored to present the SJMH Memorial Scholarship to Christopher Lomax,” said Laura Vetter, supervisor of community services and chair of the scholarship committee. “Chris’s commitment to pursuing higher education and his strength of character in the face of adversity are among the qualities that most impressed our committee. We feel he possesses the courage to succeed in whatever career he pursues in the future.”

Lomax is a member of the Hornell High School 2016 graduating class, and has dedicated himself to finding success in all that he puts his mind to. Though blinded at an early age, he does not let his blindness define him and he fights to have the same experiences as his peers. Lomax has a passion for the theater arts, including singing, playing instruments and acting and served as a member of the student council. In his spare time, Lomax volunteers at the Concern for Youth because of his compassion and desire to help others.

"Becoming blind has given me amazing opportunities that a sighted person wouldn't be able to experience," Lomax said. "I have seen a heightening of my other senses. Becoming blind is only one chapter in my life story."

Christopher's mother, Mary McInerney, is employed as Manager of Nutrition/Environmental Services at SJMH. Lomax will be attending Alfred State College in the fall where he plans to major in Social Work and Counseling, and will be taking his guide dog, Phoenix, with him.

“We were impressed with the talented and ambitious students who applied for this year’s award, whose qualifications and plans for the future made the selection process difficult,” said Vetter. “We wish them the best in their future careers.”

To be eligible for consideration, applicants must be the son or daughter of a SJMH employee, a high school senior, and have been accepted by an institution of higher education. The process includes a written application, letters of reference as well as a personal interview with the scholarship committee.

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Photo below:



L-R, Front: Proud Mom, Mary McInerney, Scholarship recipient Christopher Lomax, Committee member Gina Reagan. Back: Committee member Linda Blauers, President & CEO Jennifer Sullivan, and Committee chair Laura Vetter. Missing from photo is Chris's guide dog, Phoenix, who also participated in the interview process.