

Solidarity scholarships

Union membership benefits family members

Once again, the Union Plus Scholarship Program has come through with financial aid for college for NALC members' children.

"No one understands the value of solidarity better than the members of the NALC," said President Bill Young. "We're pleased we can extend some of the benefits of that solidarity to our families through Union Plus," the program that offers the NALC credit card, mortgage assistance, and variety of other financial aid and discount programs.

This year's recipients:

—Molly Gilmore, daughter of Daniel Gilmore of Southeast Massachusetts Merged Branch 18, won a \$2,000 scholarship. She plans to specialize in deliveries of a different sort, as a nurse and midwife. "I will belong to a union," Molly said, "and I look forward to being an advocate for health care professionals."

—A \$500 award was given to Joshua Helsel-Raymond, son of Andrew Raymond from Buffalo-Western New York Branch 3. Thanks to his father, Joshua learned that "NALC always stands up for the members during contract negotiations to ensure fair wages and good benefits."

—Holly LaCount, daughter of Diana LaCount of Eureka, California Branch 348, picked up a \$2,000 grant. "Unions have shown me that every single person can make a difference," said LaCount, whose mother is a 25-year NALC member.

Nearly 4,200 students applied for scholarships this year. A committee of professional educators selected 133 award winners representing 41 unions. Since it began in 1991, the program has handed out \$2.8 million to more than 1,800 union families.

Thanks to Union Privilege and Union Plus, NALC members and families have access to many valuable opportunities

besides the scholarship program, ranging from financial hardship assistance and home energy rebates to vacation discounts and car buying services.

To find out more about Union Plus offers, go to nalc.org. Simply click on "About NALC," then select "For Members." The page also contains links to the Union Plus Scholarship application for next year, and to information about the Doherty, Donelon and Lemonopoulos scholarships available only to NALC members. ✉



Growing Gimme 5 is goal

WITH SIX MONTHS TO GO, BRANCH COLCPE coordinators still have a lot of time to bring members into the fold—the growing army of automatic Gimme 5 contributors, whose decision to support NALC's political action committee could give them a shot at one of seven \$1,000 awards.

The top prizes in this year's contest—\$1,000 American Express gift cards—will go to lucky members who support the non-partisan Committee on Letter Carrier Political Education. To qualify for the individual prize drawings, branches must lead their size category in highest percentage of members making regular Gimme 5-level contributions as of December 31.

The five branch categories are 50 to 99 members, 100 to 499 members, 500 to 999 members, 1,000 to 1,999 members, and 2,000 members or more. The Gimme 5 campaign seeks contributions of \$5 per pay period or more from active carriers via payroll deduction or electronic funds transfer. Retirees qualify by donating \$5 or more monthly, from their annuity payment or by EFT.

A sixth raffle will be held to select one winner from all

donors in branches with 49 or fewer members. A seventh gift card will go to a contributor from the branch recording the greatest percentage increase in Gimme 5 donors. And there are other prizes, including laptop computers for the top five branches and \$200 gift cards for the COLCPE coordinators in each winning branch.

Full contest details are in the March *Postal Record*, available online at nalc.org under "News." Also, visit the website to check on how your branch is doing. Winners will be highlighted in the special February 2010 COLCPE issue. ✉

NOTE: Contributions to COLCPE are 100 percent voluntary and are not tax-deductible. Absolutely no union dues money is used to support political candidates.

