

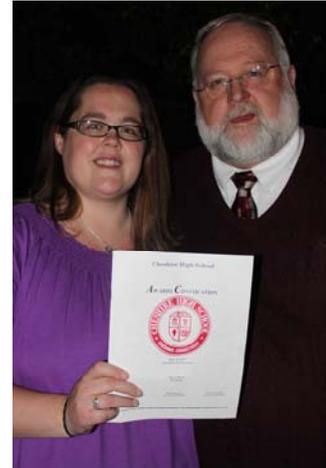
The Kathy Mordente Solli Foundation awards its first Scholarship.

On May 24, 2011, representatives of the Kathy Solli Mordente Foundation awarded its first \$500 Scholarship to Cheshire High School senior **Gordon Lewis**.



In a ceremony held at the high school auditorium, Arne B. Solli, president and CEO of the foundation gave a presentation speech outlining the establishment of the foundation in the memory of his wife, Kathy and her commitment to students with special education needs. He explained how she felt that had she been tested for learning disabilities when she was a student, she may have been able to have benefited from some of the services offered in Cheshire Schools for learning disabled students and not struggled so much as a young student. In spite of her challenges, she was able to earn an Associates Degree in Early Child Development and spent 22 years working as a special education secretary at both Dodd Middle School and Doolittle Elementary School.

This first year, we received four applications from very deserving seniors. A committee consisting of Arne, his daughter Kristina, Mark Kaplan, guidance counselor from Doolittle School, Donna LaConte, teacher from Doolittle School and Sabrina Salemme, teacher from Norton School went over the applications and chose Gordon Lewis to be the recipient of a \$500 scholarship to be used at the college bookstore at the State University of New York at Purchase. Gordon plans to major in writing at SUNY and received glowing recommendations for his creative writing from some of his teachers. This summer we received a thank you card from Gordon thanking us for the scholarship and sharing how he was able to use it to buy textbooks and school supplies for his courses this year. *I know Kathy would be pleased.*



Next year we hope to award two \$500 scholarships to a senior pursuing an education beyond high school that at some point in their educational career were classified special education and received services in Cheshire. For more information, check out our website at www.thekmsf.org.