



## **Police Foundation: Community Scholarship Program**

by Tom Murphy

In last month's article I spoke about how the Police Foundation has reaffirmed its community outreach and commitment to supporting education in Palm Beach Gardens by renewing our very popular scholarship program. For the 2013-2014 school year the Foundation will be offering two \$1,500 scholarships, an increase from last year's program to recognize the ever increasing educational costs.

The scholarships are open to individuals seeking and have been accepted in and undergraduate, graduate or technical studies program at an accredited post-secondary educational institution. The funds must be used for tuition or educational institution fees. Applicant must be either a resident of the City of Palm Beach Gardens or employed by, or be the dependent of a person currently employed by the Palm Beach Gardens Police Department. Current active members of the Palm Beach Gardens Police Department's Explorer Post are also eligible.

The applications submitted will be judged on the individual's academic achievement, community and volunteer achievements as well as their financial need. Each applicant must also submit a 500 word or fewer essays on the topic of "How I have demonstrated leadership ability in my school, work or community."

Last year's scholarships were evaluated by a committee made up of both Foundation Board members and university faculty and the finalists were individually interviewed by members of the committee. The scholarships were awarded in the second half of the year to two young women who had coincidentally both graduated from William T. Dwyer High School. Ms. Alexa Wingate had completed her high school years with a 3.8 GPA and was ranked number 13 in her class of over 500 students. She is now enrolled in the University of South Florida and pursuing studies in Criminology. Ms. Erika Peeples finished her high school years with a 3.6 GPA and was ranked 49 in her class at Dwyer High. She is now attending the University of North Florida pursuing studies in Nursing.

The application package has been distributed throughout the Palm Beach County District School system as well as to private schools and other educational institutions. The package is also available on the Police Foundation's website at [www.pbgpf.org/scholarships](http://www.pbgpf.org/scholarships). The deadline for application submission is April 30, 2014.

The Foundation is looking forward to receiving numerous applications again this year. The committee, once again made up of Board members and university faculty, plans to review the applications, interviews the finalists and then to present the award checks to the two selected individuals in June of 2014.

For further information visit the Police Foundation website at [www.pbgpf.org](http://www.pbgpf.org) or call the Foundation office at 799-4440.

Tom Murphy has been president of the Palm Beach Gardens Police Foundation, Inc. since its inception in 2007. Before helping to form the foundation he was a marketing executive with the IBM Corporation and earlier a member of the Nassau County (NY) Police Department.