

For Immediate Release: August 24, 2010  
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## **NDCAWS Awards Seven Scholarships**

**[Bismarck, ND]** – The North Dakota Council on Abused Women’s Services (NDCAWS) awarded 7 scholarships to women across the state. The Women’s Opportunity Scholarship Fund provides higher education opportunities to low-income women who wish to enter, or are currently attending a North Dakota college or university. The fund was established by a generous donor who believed in creating opportunities for women through higher education. It was enhanced in 2001 by a legal settlement with Nine West Corporation – brokered by former Attorney General Heidi Heitkamp – and by individual contributions.

According to Dana Mees, Administrative and Technology Coordinator for NDCAWS, the fund assists scholarship recipients in a number of ways, “It helps women to break the bonds of poverty and enhance their lives and the lives of their families intellectually, culturally, and environmentally.”

This year NDCAWS received 32 applications for scholarships, this is a significant increase in applications in more than a decade. “The increase in applications certainly reflects the economic crisis and the strain on resources.”

This year \$5,900 was awarded to recipients attending several universities and colleges across the state. Recipients granting permission to publish their names include: Emily Sorenson, Minot; Charlotte Horst, Bismarck; and Jolene LaVallie, Fort Totten.

Over the past twenty-four years, \$201,944 has been awarded. Contributions to the Women’s Opportunity Scholarship Fund are always welcome, and may be sent as earmarked contributions to the NDCAWS/CASAND office. For more information on the scholarship please call Dana at 888-255-6240 ext. 14.

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### **ND Council on Abused Women’s Services/Coalition Against Sexual Assault**

The ND Council on Abused Women’s Services/Coalition Against Sexual Assault is a membership organization representing the 21 ND domestic violence and sexual assault crisis centers. It is the mission of NDCAWS/CASAND to provide leadership and support in the identification, intervention, and prevention of domestic and sexual violence. For more information, please visit [www.ndcaws.org](http://www.ndcaws.org)