

Mercy teen earns scholarship based on desire to end human trafficking

By Catholic Review Staff

Pope Francis isn't the only one concerned about human trafficking. Mercy High School senior Brooke Burghardt also has a desire to put an end to human trafficking and provide educational opportunities for girls worldwide.

Burghardt was recently selected as the winner of the 2013 Girls Gone Great scholarship essay contest sponsored by WomanTalk Live, a radio program and online community founded by entrepreneur Ann Quasman. More than 300 essays from across the state were submitted.

"We hear too often that teens lack motivation and are apathetic," said Quasman. "But in reality, many young women are accomplishing great things and setting the stage for the next generation of leadership."

Quasman said that focusing on the leadership qualities of today's teens and young women is the inspiration of the Girls Gone Great essay contest.

"Brooke represents the future, not just for women, but for the next class of leadership for our country," Quasman said. "She is articulate, thoughtful and mindful of her place in the larger community and how she can improve it."

Burghardt, who won a \$3,000 scholarship courtesy of Talkradio 680 WCBM, Raskin Global's Women Getting Wise on Wealth and the Baltimore Power Group, discovered her passion after attending a conference for Mercy High Schools from around the nation and Guam. Recently she attended the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations.

"I am pleased to accept this award and look forward to exploring ways that I can make the world better for women and girls," Burghardt said.

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