

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Officer Moats Foundation

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**OFFICER MOATS FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

MARYVILLE, TN – Officer Moats Foundation is honored to announce the 2018 recipients of the first annual Kenny R Moats Scholarship. The Foundation has named four students to receive the Kenny R Moats scholarship for continuing education. Each recipient will receive a one-time award of \$1,156 for educational expenses at the college, university, trade school or non-traditional higher education program of their choice.

“The scholarships were created to help young people further their educational goals and eventually, the community at large,” said Kenneth Moats, father of Officer Kenny Moats and Founder/President of the Foundation. “It’s a way of remembering Kenny, to give back to the community and make a difference. “Making a difference” is what he always wanted to do.”

All applicants were required to be Blount County residents and the dependent child of a First Responder (Law Enforcement, Fire or Ambulance). Along with traditional scholarship application questions, the students had to write a personal essay which included an explanation of how their parent’s First Responder career played a role in their life.

“When we are young, we often take our parent’s job for granted. So we posed that question on the application to remind the applicants that their parents are an important part of our community, that it’s not just a job, it’s who they are. We hoped the applicants would take time to reflect on, and have appreciation for, what they’d learned from their parents because of that job.”

Each recipient of the Kenny R Moats Scholarship have chosen a giving career path which will also benefit the community. The four award winners are:

Kirsten Potenza - graduating from Heritage High School, pursuing a career in education. Daughter of Officer Freddie Potenza with the Blount County Sheriff’s Office.

Maggie Smith – graduating from William Blount High School, pursuing a career in medicine. Daughter of Lieutenant Jeff Smith with the Knox County Sheriff’s Office.

Kelsey Fuller – graduating from William Blount High School, pursuing a career in physical therapy. Daughter of Keith Fuller with the Alcoa Fire Department.

Danielle Sennstrom – graduating from Heritage High School, pursuing a career as a paramedic and joining the fellowship of First Responders herself. Daughter of retired Sergeant Charles Sennstrom with the University of Tennessee Police Department.

The Officer Moats Foundation is a 501C3 nonprofit organization, created in memory of fallen MPD officer Kenny R Moats who gave his life in the line of duty August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The amount of the scholarship award is significant as it represents Officer Moats’ badge number 156.

For more information visit online at [www.OfficerMoatsFoundation.org](http://www.OfficerMoatsFoundation.org)

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