

***Memory of Aspiring Chef Lives on Through Scholarship Fund;
Proceeds Raised through Columbus Food & Wine Affair***

It's hard to say where Ian Adams Van Heyde would be today had his young life not been cut short in a traffic accident 10 years ago. Perhaps he would have been an executive chef at Cameron Mitchell Restaurants where he was working as a line cook. Or, maybe he would have taken his culinary talent outside Central Ohio. We will never know. But, we do know his love for culinary arts and the impact he has had on the lives of young people continues through the Ian Adams Van Heyde Memorial Scholarship Fund. The fund is just one of the charitable organizations receiving proceeds from the Columbus Food & Wine Affair, now in its sixth year.

At the time of his death, Ian was a senior at Whetstone High School and enrolled in the culinary arts program at Northeast Career Center. At his memorial service, Barbara Sills, a friend of the family, plus three other couples stood and announced they had started a scholarship fund through the Columbus Foundation in Ian's memory. The fund was to provide scholarships for students pursuing post-secondary education in culinary arts or food management.

In 1999, a \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to one of Ian's classmates, Michael Valentine. Valentine went on to become a chef in the Denver area. Since then, the fund has grown tremendously and, since its inception, more than \$40,000 in scholarships has been awarded to a total of 38 students.

Steve Van Heyde says providing the scholarships is bittersweet. "When our committee meets each May to review the applicants, it puts Nan and I in touch with kids who are the same age Ian was and who have the same dream he did. That's the sweet part." He adds, "Then, we watch that dream being pursued through their eyes instead of Ian's. That's difficult, but we are glad to do it, and we are proud to do it." Steve says he and his wife are "so appreciative of the tremendous support given to us by the Central Ohio Restaurant Association (CORA) because we are able to give even more scholarships."

When CORA took part in establishing the Columbus Food & Wine Affair in 2003, Ian's fund was one of the local charities chosen to receive proceeds from the event. Since Ian's fund operates under the umbrella of the Columbus Foundation, contributions are tax deductible and the administrative work and distribution of funds are carried out by the Columbus Foundation.

Gail Baker, CORA's Executive Director, says, "The support of the Ian Adams Van Heyde Memorial Scholarship Fund is the perfect opportunity for us to encourage young people in the culinary arts because it also underscores our mission of promoting a strong and innovative restaurant industry." She adds, "It has been a pleasure for us to work with

Nan and Steve to support so many students and to honor the memory of their son in such a fitting way.”