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Dorchester Native Awarded College Scholarship from Youth Enrichment Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- Youth Enrichment Services (YES) recently awarded its 2012 Abel Harris Scholarship Fund award to Dorchester native Shawn Moore. Shawn, 18, is a past YES youth and participant in YES's Operation SnowSports and Junior Volunteer youth leadership programs. This scholarship is in memory of Abel Harris, a YES youth who tragically died in 1985 from gun violence.

The Abel Harris Scholarship Fund is now in its 24th year. The scholarship funds are raised by Abel's former employer, David Giammatteo, and friends to honor his memory. "Abel learned how to be a leader through his experience at YES and considered (YES Founder) Richard Williams to be his father figure," remembers Abel's friend, Laura Stone. "Abel always had a way of bringing diverse people together and putting people at ease."

The scholarship is a need-based award that is given annually to a current or former YES youth enrolled in college who embodies YES's core values of youth leadership, the positive power of mentoring, and a love of the outdoors. This year's recipient, Shawn Moore, is currently a freshman at Guilford College in Greensboro, NC. He plans to double major in calculus and physics. When Shawn returns home to Boston, he continues to enjoy snowboarding and skiing.

About Youth Enrichment Services (YES)

Since 1968, YES has served, supported, and inspired over 100,000 Boston youth to develop as leaders and explore the great outdoors. YES's programs focus on introducing inner-city youth to positive sports experiences and giving them unique opportunities to connect with the outdoors. In 2011, over 1,500 kids and teens from Boston's poorest neighborhoods participated in YES programs. YES's model focuses on leadership development opportunities for youth to increase social and developmental assets through positive interactions with volunteer mentors. Learn more about YES leadership programs and opportunities for urban youth by visiting yeskids.org.

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