



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **TIFFANY ROLON-LUCAS OF WOODBRIDGE AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP BY NJ SHARING NETWORK'S HEARTS FOR EMMA PARTNER FUND**

**NEW PROVIDENCE, NJ** – NJ Sharing Network, the non-profit, federally designated organ procurement organization responsible for the recovery of organs and tissue in the state, has awarded scholarships to nine high school graduates for their passion and dedication to raising awareness of organ and tissue donation. Each student was individually presented with their scholarship award at the NJ Sharing Network's headquarters in New Providence during a private ceremony in the *Landscape of Life Meditation Garden*.

Locally, Tiffany Rolon-Lucas of Woodbridge (2020 graduate of Colonia High School) received a scholarship from NJ Sharing Network's Hearts for Emma Partner Fund. Tiffany was met with the biggest hurdle of her young life during her sophomore year when she was diagnosed with degenerative kidney disease. She fought for her life while on dialysis and returned to school with a catheter in her chest and a tube in her stomach. Thanks to a successful kidney transplant, Tiffany is living a healthy and active life, including competing in high school sports. Tiffany plans to attend Seton Hall University in the Fall.

NJ Sharing Network's scholarships are made possible thanks to several of the organization's Foundation family and partner funds:

- Hearts for Emma Partner Fund – created to celebrate Emma Rothman’s heart transplant and focused on supporting high school education and donation advocacy efforts.
- Betsy Niles Scholarship Fund – created in memory of Betsy Niles, a children’s book editor and lifelong Montclair resident whose organs were donated in 2011.
- Missy’s Miracle Scholarship Fund – created to celebrate Missy Rodriguez’s life-saving liver transplant.
- The NJ Sharing Network Foundation presented additional scholarship awards focused on Newark residents to help raise awareness as there are currently 162 Newark residents waiting for a life-saving organ transplant - the highest in the state.

“We are delighted to provide scholarship support to Tiffany and all of the amazing students who have demonstrated a tremendous commitment to supporting our life-saving mission,” said Joe Roth, president and CEO of NJ Sharing Network. “We know they will continue to be strong leaders in educating others about donation and transplantation as they move forward to begin college in the Fall.”

NJ Sharing Network’s scholarship program provides an opportunity to recognize and award graduating high school seniors whose lives have been touched by organ and tissue donation and transplantation. Applicants were measured on academic achievement, community and volunteer efforts, extracurricular activities and advocacy for organ and tissue donation. The application process was completed in June, and applications were reviewed by a committee of NJ Sharing Network Foundation Board members and volunteers.

The 2020-2021 scholarship winners are:

- **Jessica Buron** of Marlboro (2020 graduate of Middletown High School North)
- **April Doyle** of New Providence (2020 graduate of New Providence High School)
- **Morgan Krempasky** of Hillsborough (2020 graduate of Hillsborough High School)
- **Ruqaiyyah Lucas-Caldwell** of Newark (2020 graduate of Newark Academy)

- **Kaiel Maynor** of Newark (2020 graduate of Science Park High School)
- **Elexa Rogolsky** of Morganville (2020 graduate of Marlboro High School)
- **Tiffany Rolon-Lucas** of Woodbridge (2020 graduate of Colonia High School)
- **Emily Scranton** of Manasquan (2020 graduate of Manasquan High School)
- **Sydney Shea** of Skillman (2020 graduate of Montgomery High School)

For more information about NJ Sharing Network's scholarship programs, please contact [scholarship@njsharingnetwork.org](mailto:scholarship@njsharingnetwork.org).

#### About NJ Sharing Network

Dedicated to saving lives through organ and tissue donation, NJ Sharing Network is the non-profit organization responsible for the recovery and placement of donated organs and tissue for the nearly 4,000 New Jersey residents waiting for a life-saving transplant. With headquarters in New Providence, NJ, the organization, selected by *NJBiz* as one of the state's "Best Places to Work" for the third consecutive year, is also part of the national recovery system, serving the nearly 115,000 people on the national waiting list. To learn more, get involved and register as an organ and tissue donor, visit [NJSharingNetwork.org](http://NJSharingNetwork.org).

#### About NJ Sharing Network Foundation

The NJ Sharing Network Foundation is committed to increasing the number of lives saved through innovative transplant research, family support, public awareness and education about the life-saving benefits of organ and tissue donation and transplantation. By making a contribution, you empower our efforts, bringing us a step closer to providing the greatest gift of all... the Gift of Life.