

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **BERKSHIRE FARM CENTER AWARDS OVER \$55,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO YOUTH IN CARE ACROSS NYS**

ALBANY, NY- Six youth in Berkshire Farm Center's statewide foster care programs have been awarded over \$55,000 in scholarship money to attend a college or trade school in the fall. This was made possible by Mr. Charles H. Mott, a dedicated and committed member of Berkshire Farm Center's Board of Directors for over 50 years, who started the Mott Family Scholarship for Berkshire youth pursuing higher education.

Trevor is one of those youth. He came into care with Berkshire Farm Center 3 years ago when he was 15. He is now 18 and has just completed his first semester of college while enrolled in Berkshire's independent living program.

"Before coming to Berkshire, I was anxious and lacked confidence," says Trevor. "I definitely needed to improve my communication skills and the ways I expressed myself."

After being placed into care, moving to a group home and then two separate foster care placements, Trevor felt as though he lost everything, including his future. But with the help of Berkshire Farm Center and his case workers, Jessica, Theresa and Brittany, Trevor found his voice and the confidence to pursue his dreams.

"Trevor has come so far throughout his time with Berkshire," says Brittany, Trevor's Independent Living Foster Care Caseworker. "After dealing with all Trevor has gone through since being placed into care, obtaining the Mott scholarship means everything to him."

"Berkshire has been instrumental in assisting me with my challenges and helping me to create new areas of strength. Specifically, my reading/writing comprehension and my level of confidence with speaking and expressing my feelings or wishes," Trevor explained.

"Trevor felt as though he lost his future and never dreamed that he would be able to make it this far," said Brittany.

Now, with the help of his \$10,000 Mott Family Scholarship, Trevor is able to continue his education at SUNY Purchase and complete his degree in Economics and Entrepreneurship in The Arts.

"The Mott Family has given me a fresh start in this brand new chapter of my life," said Trevor. "Receiving this scholarship is allowing me to further my education when I would not have been able to otherwise."

Trevor now describes himself as motivated, determined and inspired and he is well on his way of achieving his dream of becoming a fashion designer and business owner.

"I would not have worked as hard to stay focused and motivated without the guidance of my case workers and Berkshire Farm Center, and now with the Mott family Scholarship I have everything I need to be successful."

*Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth is one of New York State's leading nonprofit child welfare agencies, serving over 8,500 children and their family members across New York State each year. The mission of Berkshire Farm Center is "to strengthen children and families so they can live safely, independently, and productively within their home communities."*

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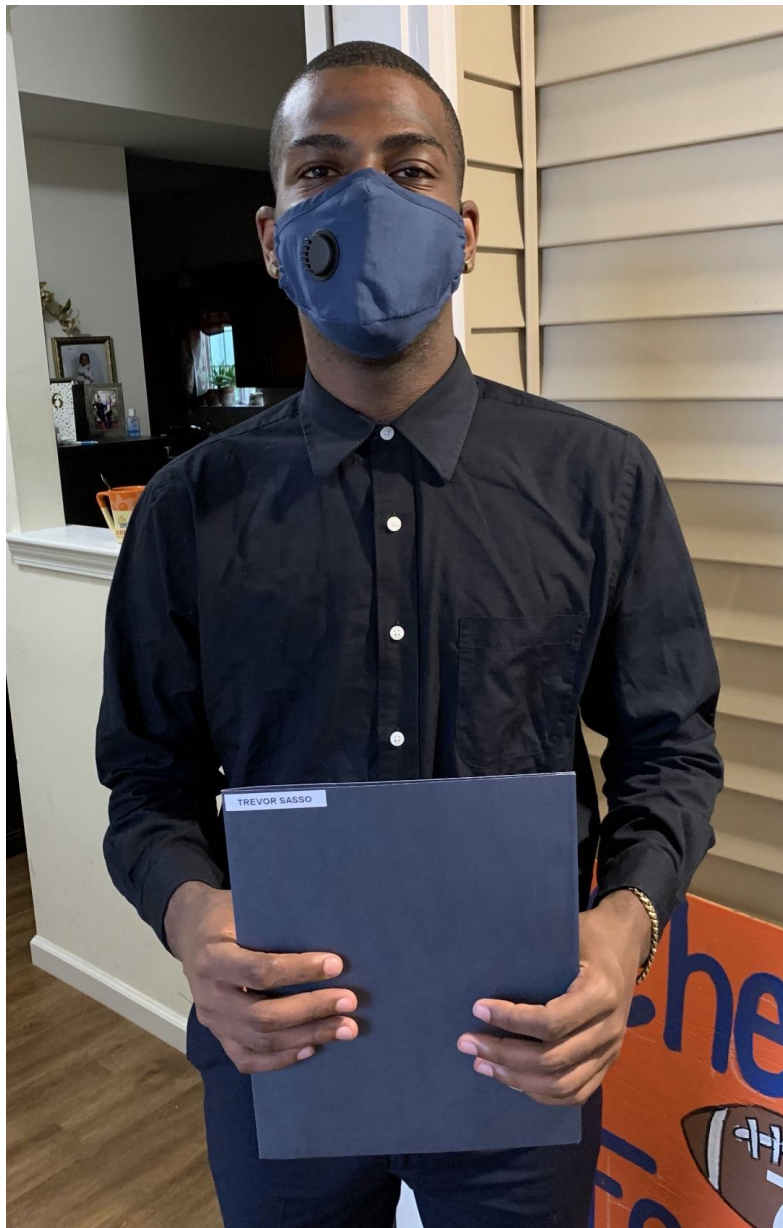
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The Mott family has provided over \$320,000 in scholarship to Berkshire youth since 2010. The Mott Family Scholarship is available to all graduating seniors in Berkshire's Foster Care Program who plan on continuing their education beyond high school. Those who apply and are awarded scholarships can use the money towards tuition, room & board, books and meal plans for college and/or trade school. To learn more about Berkshire Farm Center, you can visit [Berkshirefarm.org](http://Berkshirefarm.org).



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