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SAF Offers Circle of Succe\$\$ Grants to Students in Montana Counties

Do you have day care expenses? Don't have the money to get your computer fixed? Is paying for gas to and from school every day a burden? Nonprofit Student Assistance Foundation (SAF) can help.

SAF is offering several \$1,000 grants to help Montana students in need cover the expenses associated with pursuing postsecondary education.

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2011, Montana students are invited to apply for Circle of Succe\$\$ grants through SAF's SmartAboutCollege.org Web site.

"It's SAF's privilege to be able to invest in Montana students' futures this way," said Darbie Hess, SAF's grants manager. "2011 will mark the sixth year that SAF has provided Circle of Succe\$\$ grants to help Montana students meet the challenge of paying for their college education."

Since the inception of the Circle of Succe\$\$ grant program, SAF and its donors have provided \$287,000 to help students continue their higher education. The grant program was originally funded solely through voluntary payroll deductions by SAF employees, but now funds raised through SAF's annual golf scramble also are used to provide the grants.

"This scholarship is very encouraging not only in an academic sense, but it also gives me the hope of reaching my goal of being debt free at the time of my graduation," said 2010 Circle of Succe\$\$ grant recipient Matthew Curran of Butte.

In order to qualify for a Circle of Succe\$\$ grant, applicants must be Montana residents attending a Montana college or university at least half time, be in their second, third or fourth year of postsecondary education and maintaining at least a 2.5 grade point average (GPA). A committee of SAF employees evaluates the applications to determine who receives the grants.

To apply, students may visit SmartAboutCollege.org before the March 15, 2011 deadline, click on the "Circle of Succe\$\$ grants" tab and follow the instructions. For more information, call toll free 877-COLG4ME (265-4463).

Student Assistance Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Montana corporation that provides students with knowledge and tools to finance and pursue their postsecondary education. Funds generated by SAF are returned to Montanans in the form of education grants and public benefit programs - to date more than \$19.6 million. For more information, visit www.safmt.org or www.SmartAboutCollege.org.