



FISHERMEN'S VILLAGE
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Fishermen's Village Craft Beer Fest Broke Its Own Record Funding \$14,000 in Scholarships To Educate Punta Gorda's Next Top Chef

PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA –

- Culinary dreams do come true thanks to a well attended FRLA event at Fishermen's Village. Attendees of the popular event sampled from 30 vendors and 90 specialty craft brews while munching on pretzel necklaces and grooving to the beat of live music on the harbor.
- All Craft Beer Fest proceeds benefited Florida Restaurant & Lodging scholarships, dedicated to educating the next generation of food and hospitality professionals.
- "As long as I'm around this will be an annual event" said Kurt Brown, a volunteer organizer and proprietor of Village Brewhouse at Fishermen's Village. "The goal is to defray some of the mandatory costs required to be in class. Chef coats, textbooks, knives, non-slip shoes... these are all things they have to purchase out of pocket to be in class."
- 12 local students received the Culinary Arts Extra Mile and Hospitality Award scholarships.
- Among the top two scholarship winners this year, Charlotte County High School and Technical Center student Shellby Litchfield will use her winnings to attend the prestigious Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York. She will be representing the State of Florida, as the High School contestant in the Skills USA National Competition located in Atlanta Georgia on June 20th where she will compete against the nation's top high school competitors across the nation.
- Madison Childres, Lemon Bay High School, plans to attend Charlotte Technical College to pursue culinary arts with a special interest in becoming a Pastry Chef.
- Scholarships this year were fully funded due to the success of Brew Fest. "Other small fundraisers raise money, but the primary economic driver of these scholarships is Brew Fest." Says Kurt
- Students who want to apply for the scholarship must be enrolled in either the high school culinary class, the technical college continued learning center, or another culinary college program.

If you would like more information about this topic please email John Lai (Regional Director – FRLA) john@sanibel-captiva.org