

## Two students get \$1,000 to study mental health

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Two local students will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship this week to help them continue their studies in areas of mental health and social work.

The Helmut Braun memorial awards are to be awarded tomorrow to Brenda Gateman and Tasha Schumann at Kitchener's downtown Centre for Research and Education in Human Services.

Braun, an advocate for the rights of the mentally ill, struggled with schizophrenia before killing himself in 2001. He worked as a researcher at the centre.

The awards, which provide support for students in need of financial help, were created by the research centre and a Waterloo Region self-help group that helps people cope with their mental- health problems.

Gateman is a mature student working on a social work degree at the University of Waterloo, and Schumann is a third-year student of developmental and social psychology at the University of Toronto.

Gateman, who works part time at the Working Centre in downtown Kitchener, crossed paths with Braun in 2000 while he was working as a community advocate.

Schumann, whose studies focus on the mental health of children, has worked with various mental-health support groups in Waterloo Region.

The non-profit centre, located in Suite 202 at 73 King St. W., does community-based research on social issues. The self-help group is operated by people who survived mental illness and now provide support for others.

Joanna Ochocka, the research centre co-ordinator, said the scholarships are awarded to students who work in social justice, peace and conflict resolution, cross-cultural issues or community development.

Braun, who was involved in groups that protested racism and the content of the Charlottetown accord in the early 1990s, was a local Marxist-Leninist candidate in the 1997 federal election.

Two years later, he was an independent candidate in the provincial election.

His memorial fund is administered by the Mennonite Foundation of Canada and anyone interested in donating is asked to call 741-1318 or visit [www.crehs.on.ca](http://www.crehs.on.ca).

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