



BARNUM
FINANCIAL
GROUP

An office of MetLife

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Jane Snaider

6 Corporate Drive
Shelton, CT 06484
203.513.6239

jснаider@metlife.com

www.barnumfinancialgroup.com

For Immediate Release:

SHELTON, CT.,

Contact:

Jane Snaider

203-513-6239

Jснаider@metlife.com

**Barnum Financial Group Announces Winners of 3rd Annual Essay Contest:
*WHAT THE AMERICAN DREAM MEANS TO ME***

Shelton, CT- August 30 2008– Barnum Financial Group, an office of MetLife in partnership with WTNH Channel 8 announced the winners of the 3rd Annual Essay Contest and presented four students with a total of \$5,000 in college scholarships:

- Elizabeth “Libby” Ryan of East Haddam won first prize in the 6-9 age group winning \$1,000
- Emily Ann Wingard of Naugatuck won second prize in the 6-9 age group winning \$500
- John H. Hewitt of Fairfield won first place in the 10-14 age group winning \$2,500.
- Amisha Sisodiya of Trumbull won second place in our 10-14 age group winning \$1,000

After each winner read their essay, Paul Blanco, Managing Director for Barnum Financial Group presented each student with a check and congratulated them on an outstanding job. As a young boy growing up in Brooklyn, NY, Blanco knows first hand the hard work it takes to achieve the American Dream. “As a community leader and businessman, I am committed to help as many children succeed in life. That is why, our firm is partnering with many non-profit organizations throughout the state whose goals are similar to ours.”

The contest was open to all Connecticut students between the ages of 6-14 years old who were asked to write an essay about “*What the American Dream Means to Me.*” Nearly 400 children participated in the contest and the winning essays were selected by an independent panel chosen by WTNH News Channel 8. The criteria were based on originality, creativity, structure/grammar and relevance to the topic.

All winners will receive a cash prize, which will be deposited into a 529 plan account or a similar college savings plan.

Barnum Financial Group, an office of MetLife and the #1 MetLife office, is a comprehensive financial services firm dedicated to helping our clients improve their long-term financial success and reduce debt in order to pursue their lifetime financial goals and dreams. We offer a full line of insurance products as well as diverse financial experience, including college funding, retirement, estate planning, special needs children, business strategies to employee benefits. We pride ourselves in the dedication and personalized service our advisors provide their clients.

Barnum Financial Group.....Your Life is our Business

Securities products and investment advisory services offered by MetLife Securities, Inc. (MSI) (member FINRA/SIPC), New York, NY 10166. Metropolitan Life Insurance Company (MLIC), 200 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10166. MSI and MLIC are MetLife Companies.

L08089045[exp1208][CT]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

