

Slain coach's children get scholarships

Chicago Tribune (IL) - July 1, 2005

The three children of Ricky Byrdsong, the former Northwestern University basketball coach who was slain in a 1999 hate crime, will receive college scholarships from a local Jewish group.

The Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago has established a fund to help victims and families of hate crimes. The Byrdsong children, Sabrina, Kelley and Ricky Jr., will receive \$2,000 per year. Sabrina, the oldest, will attend Clark Atlanta University this fall.

"The Jewish Federation is pleased to step forward in a positive, meaningful way to help the Byrdsong children with their college education following the tragic loss of their father nearly six years ago," President Steven B. Nasatir said.

Byrdsong was killed over the 4th of July weekend in 1999, when Benjamin Smith, a follower of white supremacist Matthew Hale, went on a shooting spree directed at blacks, Jews and Asians, killing two people and wounding nine before killing himself.

Edition: Chicago Final

Section: Metro

Page: 2

Index Terms: SUBURB; VICTIM; FAMILY; GROUP; EDUCATION; COLLEGE; AWARD

Record Number: CTR0507010263

Copyright (c) 2005, Chicago Tribune Company. All rights reserved.