

N E W S R E L E A S E (8/1/2008)

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Local foster child realizes education dreams against the odds

MATHER, CALIF.—Thanks to an Orphan Foundation of America scholarship—funds raised in partnership with EdFund through its annual local charity golf tournament—Sacramento City College student Melissa Medina will be graduating with her associate degree this year, and continuing toward her law school goal.

And, if you ask Medina, she's striving for law school against the odds.

"In the past as a foster child, people have often made me feel as though I had something to be ashamed of. I felt as if I had something to apologize for, but these folks (OFA and EdFund supporters) didn't do that. They were eager to hear what we struggle with on a day-to-day basis," said Medina.

After giving a speech at this year's fundraising golf tournament, Medina relayed the experience to other former foster youth, saying, "I felt that this was important, as I know that many of you are like myself and do not feel bad about the past, but empowered by the strength that we received during those times."

And empowering students is a goal that OFA and EdFund share. For the last 10 years, EdFund, one of the nation's leading providers of student loan guarantee services under the Federal Family Education Loan Program, has been putting its money where its mission is: helping students like Medina by hosting annual charity golf tournaments, as they did earlier this year.

In May alone, EdFund donated \$40,000 it raised from employees and supporters to the OFA for foster youth in need of educational opportunities.

"At EdFund, we are passionate about serving students and making higher education possible," said EdFund President Sam Kipp.

For more information about the OFA and EdFund's annual charity golf tournament, visit www.orphan.org and click on "blog."

EdFund, a nonprofit public benefit corporation, is one of the nation's leading providers of student loan guarantee services under the Federal Family Education Loan Program and offers students a wide range of financial aid and debt management information while supporting schools with advanced loan processing solutions and default prevention techniques. Operating as an auxiliary corporation of the California Student Aid Commission and founded in 1997, EdFund is headquartered in Mather, Calif. with regional offices located throughout the nation. For more information on EdFund, please visit the Web site at www.edfund.org. EdFund and its associated graphic are registered trademarks of EdFund.

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