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From left, Orange Housing Authority Chairman Coram J. Rimes Jr., Marie Mitchell, Orange Housing Authority Executive Director Dr. Walter D. McNeil Jr., and Amira Amperbin were at the fifth annual Youth Scholarship Golf Tournament on Monday, Sept. 21, where the Orange Housing Authority presented \$3,000 scholarships to Mitchell and Amperbin.

## Two Orange students earn scholarships from OHA

Marie Mitchell and Amira Amperbin are both 18-year-old college freshmen, balancing between classes and balancing all the new responsibilities that come as adults. One of the most nagging responsibilities is to pay their tuition, as well as room and board, equating more than \$4,000 a year.

On Monday, Sept. 21, the pair received a terrific boost from the Orange Housing Authority, as both were awarded at the fifth annual Youth Scholarship Golf Tournament to each accept \$1,000 for their higher education. This money was raised through the generous sponsors and golfers who participated in the event.

Amperbin and Mitchell received a strong ovation as they accepted large ceremonial checks from Orange Housing Authority Executive Director Dr. Walter D. McNeil Jr. and Orange Housing Authority Chairman Coram J. Rimes Jr.

"The Orange Housing Authority is tremendously proud of both of you and we

wish you the greatest success in college," McNeil said. "We are happy to help you as you take the next great step in your lives."

Both students are from families living in Section 8 housing in Orange, which is in the auspices of the Orange Housing Authority. Each spring, the Orange Housing Authority advertises for graduating seniors among Orange Housing Authority residents or those residing Section 8 residents.

For Mitchell, she can best describe the scholarship as a godsend, writing this is how attending a small private college in North Carolina that will cost her \$12,000 a year. Mitchell believes she will be paying off her education at Chowan University in Murfreesboro, N.C. for many years and this scholarship is a relief.

Mitchell said Chowan University is the first school she has applied to and she was looking for the news that a school of only 1,200 students can provide. "This is the only schol-

arship I've received so far," Mitchell said. "It's making a real difference."

Mitchell is the third member of her family to receive an Orange Housing Authority scholarship. Her sister, Regina Shields, graduated from the College of New Jersey in 2013 and is now looking forward to earning a graduate degree. Her other sister, Sabrina Shields, used the scholarship money to attend Rutgers University. She graduated in 2014 and is now an elementary school teacher at Dr. William H. Hoar 100 Elementary School in Newark.

For the other young scholarship recipient, the money will help cover her tuition at Mountain State University, where she is beginning the road to a degree in biology. Amperbin said the scholarship is a huge boost as she also enrolls on a work study program in which she earns \$8.25 an hour by working as an assistant in the university's theatre department.

This year, she is receiving \$1,000 in scholarship and financial aid in her par-

ent or higher education.

"I am so appreciative of this scholarship as paying the college is always a big thing, as my dad," Amperbin said. "I'm working at the theatre department from 5 to 11 pm every day, helping them clean it up, just to earn as much money as I can to pay my tuition. So, I really appreciate all the Orange Housing Authority is doing to help me."

Amperbin is a June graduate of Maurice H. Rorer High School, a magnet school in Newark that has a rigorous program. For example, she took five major math courses in just four years of high school in an effort to get an edge and the best public education possible.

"I was shocked to get this scholarship," she said. "The housing authority somehow got my name and urged me to apply. I was so nervous, I went in for an interview and now here I am, accepting this scholarship. The Orange Housing Authority has been a great help and I am so thankful to be here."