

# LOCAL & STATE

City

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Meg DeCubellis, Katie DeCubellis' mother, left, stands Monday with the winners of the 2011 Katie DeCubellis Memorial Foundation writing contest, Patria Hernandez of Middletown (first place), Allie Thibault of Newport (second place) and Rishabh Sharma of North Providence (third place).

## Foundation honors young writers

On the same day the Katie DeCubellis Memorial Foundation presented its eighth annual writing contest awards, Katie was remembered Monday on the Oprah Winfrey show.

Katie was 13 when she and Marsha Bowman, a friend's mother, were struck and killed by a drunken driver in Narragansett on Oct. 29, 1999. On Oprah's show Monday, Becky Bowman of Bristol, who survived the accident, talked about the loss of her mother and her best friend Katie and how Winfrey's show taught her about

forgiveness.

Later Monday, the foundation established in Katie's memory recognized the winners of this year's essay contest — the theme of which was bullying — during a ceremony at the Warwick Mall. The first-place winner was Patria Hernandez of Middletown for "A Voice for Those Who Have Been Silenced." Second place went to Allie Thibault of Newport for "The Introduction to What is Real," and third place went to Rishabh Sharma of North Providence for "A Boy's Jour-

ney Without a Father."

"I was impressed at the sympathies to the bullied, and also to a kind of truth that goes far beyond the conventional and expected," said author Thomas Cobb, who judged the entries.

The Katie DeCubellis Memorial Foundation will host the 12th annual Katie DeCubellis Memorial 5K Run/Walk on Sunday, June 12, at Narragansett High School.

For more information, go to [www.kdmf.org](http://www.kdmf.org).