



**NEWS RELEASE**  
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## **Broad horizons open for former foster child**

Michael Smith, who spent most of his teenage years in foster care, has won a scholarship to help him complete his studies at the University of Michigan.

Smith, 21, received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Foster Child Enrichment Council to help pay for a course in Intermediate Arabic. The council is a volunteer group which helps children and youth who are currently or formerly in the custody of the Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services. Smith, of Lincoln Heights, has also received financial help from the Orphan Foundation of America.

A college senior, he is double-majoring in Asian and Islamic Studies and hopes for a career teaching or in diplomatic service or intelligence. Smith speaks Hindi and Urdu and spent his junior year in India studying and tutoring children in English.

Smith entered foster care at the age of 15 when his mother could no longer care for him and his eight siblings. He graduated from the School for the Creative and Performing Arts in 2002. There, he started playing cello at age 16 and in a little over a year, had earned a college music scholarship. He credits music, his SCPA teachers, and his foster mom, Linda Carden of Mason, with helping him realize his dreams.

"I had no idea how far the cello could take me," Smith said. "Through music I found great, inspiring people who really encouraged and helped me."

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