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Yuanta Top Scholars Program Awards Scholarships to 54 Students

"This scholarship award means more to me than just \$200,000" is the common feedback from the awardees, which is in line with what the program has aimed to achieve since its establishment. On December 4th, Yuanta Financial Holdings and Yuanta Foundation held the awards ceremony for the fourth annual "Yuanta Top Scholars Program". Awards were given to 54 selected students. Each awardee will receive an educational grant of \$200,000. With the 54 award winners for this year, the program has benefitted a total of 226 students in the four years of its existence, helping promising students from disadvantaged backgrounds pursue their studies without financial pressure, and move a step closer to achieving their dreams through education.

At the ceremony, Yuanta Financial Holdings Chairman and Yuanta Foundation Director Tony Shen shared his experiences from his background, reminding them to cherish this award by utilizing it wisely and to think ahead with the aim at becoming a helper themselves in the future, which will further enrich their lives.

This year's 54 scholarship recipients came from 22 schools across Taiwan. The applicants underwent a three-step application process involving a recommendation from the student's school, an application review, and an oral interview. Many of the applicants grew up in extremely difficult circumstances, and the determination and courage they exhibited in facing life's challenges inspire tremendous respect. One of the scholarship recipients is Jiang, a student from National Taipei University. This is the second time Jiang has been awarded a scholarship. Since graduating from junior high school, Jiang worked part-time

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in addition to her schooling and cared for her sick father. Right before turning 21, Jiang was diagnosed with a rare cancer, which caused her to be paralyzed gradually. After returning to school from a suspension to treat this disease, Jiang often had to suffer the chronic pains which come with pathologic fracture caused by cancer treatment earlier. Jiang expressed that in addition to providing financial support, Yuanta Top Scholar scholarship also made her a more compassionate and caring person. With her earlier grant, Jiang made donations to buy presents for children at children's home and also bought food to distribute to the homeless as well as actively participating as Yuanta volunteer.

Hung from Hsinchu High School goes out every morning at 5:30 to buy the necessary food, then prepares breakfast and lunch for his father stricken with disease, and takes on three part-time jobs. It is not until late at night that Hung finds the time to study and do his homework, leaving him with only three or four hours for sleep. In spite of these challenges, Hung found ways to help others who are also struggling in life. When he found out a student at the learning center where he worked at was financially worse off than him, Hung asked the center to deduct from his own salary to help pay the tuition for that student.

National Chiao Tung University, Chair of College of Management Tsung-Kang Chen, who accompanied the students to the awards ceremony, said that the Yuanta Top Scholars Program scholarships offer more than the education grant but also ongoing support and care for the students. By inviting students to engage in volunteering, the students are taught the meaning of giving back to society, which is an important aspect in building a kind and positive society.

Gratitude is the sentiment shared all the students and assembled guests, which will translate to positive impacts as it spreads to different corners of the society.