

**2017 Ruth Kreuser Music Scholarship**  
By Cathy Paquette  
Ruth Kreuser Music Scholarship State Chairman

This year our winner of the Ruth Kreuser Music Scholarship for 2017 is Michael Zelinski, a talented young man and the dedicated, hardworking violin student of Celestine Fitzgerald, member of the Wisconsin Independent Senior Club. Michael is a 9<sup>th</sup> grader and lives in Ixonia. He was born into a Suzuki family and began violin at the age of six with Celestine. As the sixth of seven children all learning violin, or another musical instrument, at an early age Michael had already been listening to the repertoire for so long that he moved quickly through concepts and pieces. Also, for the past several years he has been studying piano and horn, and attended WSMA State Solo and Ensemble Festival in all three instruments in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. He enjoys giving of his musical talent to the community through performing in churches, nursing homes, retirement communities and other community events.

The Ruth Kreuser Music Scholarship is a \$500 award and is very competitive, and Michael is well deserving of this award. He intends to use the scholarship money to help pay for attendance this summer at the two week Chamber Program at the American Suzuki Institute in Stevens Point. The program involves a high level of instruction and he would benefit from the intensity of the program. Our congratulations go to him, and Celestine, and best wishes go to Michael in his musical endeavors from the members of the Wisconsin Federation of Music Clubs.