

Dear Kids' Chance,

I was born at 2 lbs and 1 ounce with cerebral palsy. Doctors said I would be a vegetable. I am now 22 years old and on my way to college because of my dad. Most people would have given up on me, such as my biological mother, but not dad! Although the odds have always been against me, he always saw these challenges as ways to grow stronger. Because of his strength I am a very determined young adult. I now have the chance to attend a college close to our home; therefore, I will be able to stay on campus and come home on Fridays for a good meal and any extra help I may need.

Dad was in an accident five years ago leaving him permanently disabled. He was a manger for a retail farm store. He was loading a riding lawnmower onto a pickup truck. The tailgate broke throwing my dad onto the pavement with the mower on top of him still running. He was twisted underneath. A vertebrae cracked. It took a year to find this problem. Nerves had moved into the crack and were pinched and damaged. The vertebrae had tried to heal pinching the nerves. He now has constant pain from nerve damage and continues to take nerve numbing medicine just to function. He has epidurals every three months. Does he complain? No, only encourages me to continue with my dream of attending college on campus.

Being in a wheelchair has not stopped me from participating in extracurricular activities. I have been on the wrestling team (manager), chief editor for the television news program for school, a member of NJROTC graduating as C/Ens., and a member of the FCA. I have also been an Explorer with the police department, attending the explorer academy in Gulf Port, MS. I also attended Southern Wesleyan camp and was camper of the year for two years.

Everyone has a purpose in life. When circumstances are not controllable, they are in place for a higher reason. I could not control my circumstances. My dad could not control my circumstances. We made the best of them. My life has been a journey of personal growth to benefit others who may not always have someone like my dad to encourage and believe in them. My purpose in life is to better the lives of other young people whose circumstances are not in their control. Life is good no matter how bleak it looks at times. It is a growing process. It is a journey of learning, sharing and encouraging. I do not want anything in my life to not have a higher purpose. My higher purpose is to help other young people find theirs.

This scholarship would really help my family. Because workers compensation took so long, we lost our farm and vehicles. We are slowly getting back on our feet; however, college is expensive, and I have two younger brothers. Also, my mom (not biological, but my mom in all other aspects) is a school teacher of five years, so you know she does not make an extreme amount of money.

Thank you so much for your consideration,



David Nathanael Massey