

My name is Amanda Knight. I am a Senior at Poway High School and want to become the first person ever, on both sides of my family, to earn a Master's Degree. I want to obtain a higher education that will allow me to pursue a career in the field of social work, adoption or youth counseling. For the past several months, I have been very fortunate to work with two mentors, who have allowed me to job shadow them in the field of Child Protective Services. Through this experience, I am convinced that this is the field for me. I have been volunteering with children in need for many years and this career field will allow me to dedicate the rest of my life to helping children.

My hope is to attend Azusa Pacific University in Orange County. It is a private, Christian school with a terrific Social Work program. I have been accepted to APU but have been unable to commit to them because of financial reasons. Unfortunately, I did not qualify for any government funding on the FAFSA because my parents' income was too high last year. However, my father works in the automotive industry and his income has continued to decrease with the bad economy. The government also doesn't look at the bills we have to pay; only what my parents make. So, I will be relying on private scholarship opportunities.

I would be very grateful for an scholarship money received because it would get me one step closer to earning a degree in Social Work and starting my career with children.