

## **2K4Kids Scholarship Program**

Essay, Lauren Hughey

I am the youngest child in a family of four. My brother is twenty years old and attends Hastings College in Nebraska. My parents have been married for twenty-four years and have lived in Fallbrook for nineteen years. My dad is an engineer for the Navy and my mom is a homemaker.

My great motivators in my life have been Tara and Steve Danielson. They have been my club field hockey coaches. Tara and Steve inspire me to perform to the best of my ability. They have shown me dedication and perseverance can always bring improvement and improvement is based on effort, not just talent. Tara was a player on the National Team and has prepared me mentally to persevere and fight to be the best I can through encouragement and hard work. Steve is currently on the National Indoor Team and he has shown me passion for the game. His coaching taught me to be fearless and to try new skills and take risks, emphasizing quickness and anticipation. Steve's teaching of skills and Tara's emphasis on mental toughness has raised my game to the next level and inspired me to play at the highest level.

This fall, I will be attending Miami University in Ohio to study nursing and to play field hockey. I want to become a nurse because I would like to help others. A nursing career will fulfill my deep interest in assisting others. I also have a dream to play college field hockey and shortly I will be able to fulfill this dream.

My hard work and accomplishments have launched new opportunities for me regarding college. But, my parents will have two children in college, so the expense will be great. Not only will my brother and I be attending college, but we will be going to schools out of state. Receiving this scholarship will reduce the financial burden on my family.

Another circumstance effecting my family is my Uncle Scotty, who has Down Syndrome. My parents are responsible for his well being. Scotty has an apartment, with a roommate and a job, but is still dependent on others for help. For nearly a decade, my parents have been actively involved in caring for my uncle by grocery shopping, managing his finances, and overseeing his medical concerns. This often takes my dad away from our home to deal with my uncle's needs. Their dedication to Scotty has demonstrated responsibility, love, and support that family members are willing to undertake for each other. I hope I can be as giving to my family as my parents have been to my uncle.