

# *\$10,000 Scholarship Winner*

## DANIELLE FISHMAN

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### Speech Pathologist

When I was about two years old, my mom formed a playgroup with four other children in the neighborhood. This playgroup continued throughout my childhood years, and I remain friends with these four people today.

One of my playmates, Robbie, was different. At age three, he was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD), a form of autism. We continued to play together, completely unaware of the differences that were slowly becoming more evident. When the differences became more pronounced, though, it didn't change the friendly dynamic of the group.

*“helping those less fortunate...”*

We never openly discussed Robbie. We knew some of his behaviors were peculiar, but chose to overlook this fact. We never made a distinction because he was our friend. I leave for college in about six months and am interested in studying Speech Pathology, with particular emphasis in

helping those less fortunate than me, like Robbie. In this way, my education will help me cultivate prosperity in my neighborhood.

*“cultivate prosperity in my neighborhood...”*

Specifically, I would be interested in helping young children with speech impediments and/or families who might not be able to afford the services of a Speech Pathologist. For example, I could schedule visits with schools in poor neighborhoods and help students with speech problems. Knowing I might make a difference would be very worthwhile and gratifying. My knowledge of Speech Pathology will not limit itself to just the classroom. I look forward to using this knowledge outside the classroom to benefit those kids most deserving of these services.

**Danielle Fishman**  
**Plymouth Whitemarsh High School**

**Towson University, Class of 2013**

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# *\$5,000 Scholarship Winner*

## MICHELLE BRUNO

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### Speech Therapist

In mid February, Mrs. P called my Dad crying. Even though Mr. and Mrs. P sent their youngest son, Colin, to a specialized school to help him tackle his speech and learning disabilities; he would have to repeat kindergarten. Their hopes were demolished with the devastating news that he was failing.

I was shocked to learn that the loving, energetic child was having such trouble. I immediately called Mrs. P and offered to help Colin with his school work.

*“The last few weeks we worked together I noticed an incredible difference.”*

He had homework of a typical kindergartner as well as homework geared toward his speech problems. We practiced that when making a “P” sound both lips touch, and the bottom lip curls under slightly when making an “R” sound.

**Michelle Bruno**  
Cherry Hill High School West

Misericordia University, Class of 2013

In mid May, Mrs. P called my Dad crying; this time tears of happiness. Mrs. P had just left a conference where she was informed that if Colin attended summer school he would be prepared for first grade.

*“This experience...  
inspired me.”*

During the first month of working with Colin we worked together through every problem, referring back to the directions after one or two problems. The last few weeks we worked together I noticed an incredible difference. Colin would ask me to read the directions with him once, and then he asked me to sit on the couch, not near the table so he could surprise me with his finished product.

This experience has inspired me to become a Speech Therapist. I would be honored if you chose to help me to do so.

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## ASHLEY M. BENZ

### Occupational Therapist

Finally, Thomas Godsworth is able to tie his shoes all by himself! Simple tasks, such as the latter, that most children can accomplish at age of six, is a challenge for Thomas. Ten year old Thomas now can get ready in the morning without the help of his mother. He can brush his teeth, button his shirts and tie his shoes. Many would call this delayed learning; however, his family calls it a milestone.

*“Hope for a brighter future starts with the youngest generation.”*

When Mrs. Godsworth gave birth to her son, she knew something was not right. The doctors diagnosed her son with cerebral palsy, and advised parental assistance during his life. As a mother, she agreed, as it was her instinct to care for his sick son. However, as Thomas grew up and saw his friends do these everyday activities, he wanted independence from his mother. However he was not able to do it alone. His mother signed up for an occupational

therapist to visit him at school once a week. It was under this direction that Thomas had been able to take his first step in the direction of independence.

*“My college education will... assist in my overall dream of helping others.”*

Hope for a brighter future starts with the youngest generation. As an aspiring occupational therapist, I feel that it is every child's right to grow and become the best they can be, for they are the next generation to prosper in the community. My college education will not only help me reach my career but assist in my overall dream of helping others such as young Thomas.

**Ashley M. Benz**  
**John W. Hallahan High School**

**Misericordia University, Class of 2013**

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Special Recognition Award  
in Memory of Emily Jane D'Ancona

*\$5,000 Scholarship Winner*

MEGAN L. ERRERA

## Teacher

The strength, prosperity and continuity of any successful community is dependent upon the strength and successes of each of its individual members. The “elders” of the community provide for the present day direction and targeted goals. However, in order to sustain any and all successes achieved, the youth of our neighborhoods need to be prepared when the time comes for them to assume the responsibility of leadership and custodianship of their hometowns.

*“education is the cornerstone...  
so our neighborhoods [can]  
remain viable, vital and thriving.”*

How do we prepare our youth for the challenges and responsibilities that lie ahead so our neighborhoods remain viable, vital and thriving? My belief is that education is the cornerstone for this process.

I plan to pursue a career in education. Once I accomplish this objective, I will be in a position to facilitate the continual renewal process for our community. If education is indeed the cornerstone of a successful society, as a teacher, I will be helping to cement that stone in place.

*“help others through teaching...  
to pass the torch to the  
next generation...”*

However, before that can occur, I myself must continue with my education. In order for me to help my community by helping others through teaching, I must obtain a college degree. The certification provided with a degree will enable me to pass the torch to the next generation. It is education begetting education. Done consistently, opportunities and successes will abound.

Megan L. Errera  
St. Joseph High School

The Richard Stockton College, Class of 2013

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