

CASCWA's Southern Section's "Excerpts" from Scholarship Applications

FACED ADVERSITY

1. I was bullied a lot in elementary school; I had no friends. Not only was I alone at home but school as well. This is where my hate for school and lack confidence in myself started to develop. I realized that I was just going through each day into next. I was depressed.....

2. During the last couple months of my freshman year I did drugs, perhaps it was because it made me seem more cool or that the way others would have perceived me. But knew that it was wrong and no one is to blame but me. I made poor decisions that not only hurt me but also those that cared about me.....

3. I was born in California into a family that involved in gangs and drugs. Growing up, I saw a lot of things at a very young age that I never have seen. My Mom served time in County Jail, and my Dad ended up going to prison more than seven years. As a kid I found myself in a lot of trouble, and arrested and put in juvenile hall at the age of thirteen. Along the way, I also started school and wasn't earning credits toward my high school diploma. I was in and out of juvenile hall several times.....

4. My parents split up when I was 4 years old. Afterward, I had moved to about 3 different schools, back and forth different houses throughout my elementary experience. Middle school is when everything started to go downhill. I made a friend with my neighbor, but some of the kids were so mean to me that they started to bully me so I couldn't really be friends with her because I was so upset. After a while, I started to get depressed because I was realizing that my parents were never getting back together.....

5. I was born in California into a family that was involved in drug smuggling. My dad was killed two days before my first birthday. It was at that point my family started to fall apart even more than it was already. My Mom was in and of County Jail and became even more heavily involved in the Cartel business. She was leaving me and my older brother by ourselves, or with random people to take care of us. At time, I was six years old. Then, one day, my mom never came home. My mom was locked up; I and my brother were sent to foster care. That's when I started getting into trouble, like never going to school and always fighting. I ended up in juvenile hall and found out I was going to have a baby. When my daughter turned six months, I got into some big trouble.....

6. Growing up as a child, I spent a lot of time alone. My mother was always working and my father worked at a bar when I was a baby. Growing up, my father was no longer capable of holding a job or career as he suffered from multiple mental illnesses including Schizophrenia. My mother would work all day and then come home and go to sleep. I didn't get to see her as much so we didn't have the best relationship. When she didn't have work she would go out to party with her friends, drinking and going to clubs. My life consisted of going to school then coming home and spending the rest of the day with my father. The day before my 17th birthday my father stopped breathing for an unknown reason and I watched him pass away in front of me as paramedics tried to save him. That experience left an impact on who I am as a person and it's not one I see myself forgetting. My mother began to become extremely mentally abusive; I feel it was her way of coping with my father's death. I could not

do anything without getting screamed or cursed at and it felt like I could do nothing right. I was more depressed than I had ever been and wanted everything to end.....

7. After my 18th birthday, my mother's abuse went farther from mental abuse to physical abuse. I would come home from being with friends and she would be in a drunken rage. She would try to attack me. I had decided that I had enough. I left one night after one of her drunken rages and began to live with my boyfriend.

CONNECTING WITH OTHERS

1. I had attended the SARB meeting on March 22, 2018 prior to attending my new school. Hopefully, to get myself back on track. If it weren't for the amazing staff here I would've stayed there. I've never experienced the comfort of a teacher until I came here to this school. I can ask for help on my work and know actually get it and even advice if needed. They have hands down has the best teachers and they're incredibly sweet and understanding. They know exactly how to treat a student and them feel right at home. I feel incredibly fortunate to have had them a part of my life and going to be so sad when I graduate and won't be able to see their faces every day. Words cannot express the thanks I give to them for giving me second chance to be who I thought didn't exist.

2. Through all this, those that helped me the most, and that I will never forget my previous counselor at Student Services. She was there for me when I needed to talk and helped me see things when things came down to it and it was whether or not I'd be expelled, but they really for me because she believed in me. More than that she didn't immediately label me and saw that was more than what I did, more than just another kid that did drugs. I remember her asking about how I felt about this whole situation and whether or not I wanted to stay in this school, I didn't think my opinion and how felt on this situation really mattered, I told her that if possible, I would like to stay and I believe that it was the fact that she believed in me and respect for me enough that I was able to get out of this whole that I had dug for myself.

3. Counselors, teachers, and other staff keep in touch with me. They have helped me to see the bigger picture in life. I have gained a valuable work ethic, self-discipline and

4. In 8th Grade, I would talk to my counselor. She helped me stand up for myself because I knew that no one else would stand up for me In high school, I would talk to the school's worker and she helped me to understand that not everything is going to be happy times, but there were going to be some sad times. She helped me get through the 9th and 10th grade.

5. My school counselor and other office staff have been of great help to me in this time of need. They helped me apply for college and showed me scholarships to apply to in order to achieve my goals and dreams. They are amazing people who care about me and I appreciate them very much.

SUCCESS

1. At the beginning of my senior year, I committed to this new start not only with school but myself as well. I just had to find that motivation and I finally found it after so long. At my new school, I wasn't looked down on for my past or left to do it on my own anymore. I gained the motivation to work and be focused. I gained confidence and I started to ask for help when I needed it. My grades were excellent, attendance was amazing, and for once in my life I started to look forward to my future and to college to pursue my dreams.

2. Now that I'm ready to graduate, I will have the confidence and satisfaction to be able to say that I did it. I overcame all those hardships in my life, pushed through everything, not only showing everyone who ever doubted me, but showed myself that I was capable of doing it. I needed to prove to myself that I could. I'm going to do what my parents never did. I'm going to graduate high school and start a future that I worked hard to achieve. I now know that when I mess up it is my problem. Later that year I had made a speech about everything that's gone on in that past year, thanking my family for seeing things through with me and that was when I was truly able to move on.

3. I overcame difficulties by realizing that there is always going to be something happening to people. Also, that not everyone is perfect and God created us differently, but at the end of day we are more alike than we realize. I've learned to accept my personality and how I look. I know that all of the mistakes that I have done still didn't define me because I learned from them and changed before I made the same mistake twice.

4. When I started the Program, I made a promise that I was going to get my act together, finish high school, and get a good paying job before I finished the program. I've stuck to that promise and I will be graduating from high school.

5. I took my father's death as an incentive for me to work even harder in school. Even if he is not here I still want to make him proud of me. While he was in my life he always pushed me to try my hardest and to go to a university and do amazing things with my life. During my junior year, the year after his death, I achieved a 4.0 GPA for two semesters! Previously, it was C's D's and F's. Doing all this while fighting with suicidal thoughts, depression and the abuse from my mother. Now I support myself using the social security money I get every month from my father's death. I still get good grades in school and I have been accepted to college (my dream school since I was a child). I will be graduating from high school in June with honors.

6. Now that I am in 12th grade I feel like I am starting to understand how the world works. I might not understand it all the way because I am young, but I understand quite a bit. With everything that I have gone through that just shaped and into the brave and smart woman I am today and I couldn't have done it without all of the help.

FUTURE THOUGHTS

1. Education is now a priority of mine and I hope to one day be able to provide for my family and help them just as mine did for me. I am thankful to those that helped me through my experiences and journey, my family, the school and district. Words cannot explain my gratitude. With a little over three years to reflect what I have overcome I feel as if I have done a lot of maturing, but there is still much more to do.
2. Each component taught me that there is more to life than I was ever aware outside my neighborhood. I am ready to look to my future and set some solid goals.
3. When I started 11th grade I was just focusing on my school work, family, and friends because I knew that if I wanted to succeed, then I would have to really focus. I am now focused on my future and being there for my family, unlike my own parents.
4. I'm going to go to pursue my dreams of being a veterinarian and own my own hospital one day
5. I want to go into the medical field. If possible I'd want to go to a UC to pursue my plans but due to issues I decided to go to San Bernardino which I believe is also a great school. I plan to major in Biology but am still a little on the undecided side of things.
6. I am going to a HVAC training program through a coop of Industrial Technical Learning Center (INTECH), Chaffey College, and Chino Valley Unified School District. My first day is June 3, 2019. The 6-month, 8:00-3:30 Monday-Friday course leads to a Level II Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning Technician Certification.
7. After I graduate from high school I am planning on going to Moreno Valley College so I can pass my prerequisites to become a Registered Nurse. After I pass them I am planning on going to transfer to RCC to complete their nursing program. After I get my degree then I am going to work at the Department of State Hospitals - Metropolitan. I decided to work there because I love helping people that are in need and also because my mother, and father have worked there. So I want to follow in their footsteps.
8. After I get my diploma, I plan to enroll in the Introduction to Welding Training Program at the Industrial Technical Learning Center
9. My future education plans are to go to SDSU and get a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. I want to work in the field of forensics.
10. I have been accepted into the Air Force where I will receive training in computer technology.
