JR-SR LANDSCAPING/ JOHN SYMONS SCHOLARSHIP

After talking to a friend at work who is a donor to this scholarship program, John became interested in becoming a donor too. Once he saw the booklet, he was sold. He contacted the scholarship committee and they began working on his scholarship. He is offering this scholarship for the first time this year 2024.  Even though John lives in Pittston, he wants to offer this scholarship at Wyoming Area.

John began working at the age of 14 at a summer school program. As an adult John has worked at different restaurants  and Departments of Public Works.  In between these jobs in 2018 he started his own landscaping business. What started as a side job, soon John saw the business grow into a full time job. John started his business with one lawn mower and one weed whacker using the trunk of his car to haul the equipment to his jobs. His business has grown and presently he is  fully equipped with 3 trucks,  a snow plow,  multiple lawn mowers and other equipment essential to this business.  John’s son, John, 20 and is stepson , Matthew , 19 help with the operation of the business. They stared to work with  him in grade school.

John, Sr, continues his full time job with the West Pittston Department of Public Works.

He is joining this program to help others realize a dream they may have that includes business work.

John and his sister, Heather, were raised solely  by their mother, Marie.  From an early age they noticed how hard their mother worked at her factory job and at home. They both appreciated everything she did for them. John speaks of his mom in the most endearing terms ““So there’s this boy who stole my heart, he calls me Mom.”

As Marie grew older she had medical issues beginning at age 47 that got worse. For several years prior to her death she was confined to a wheel chair. She passed away on December 30, 2020 at the age 69.

John continues to speak of his mother  in the most endearing terms.   He realizes the sacrifices she made and he wants to continue making sacrifices as she did keeping her memory alive by including her story here.  “All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mom.”

CRITERIA: Applicants must be Wyoming Area graduating seniors who plan on continuing their education after graduation.   All majors will be considered for seniors who have been accepted into a certificate program, trade or technical school, community college or a 2 or 4 year college/university.  John is especially interested in seniors who hold part time jobs or have their own business .

REQUIRED ESSAY:  In a solid essay of at least 500 words, select one of the topics below. Identify the question you are answering in the first line of your essay.

1.       Since you are applying for this scholarship it indicates that you are interest in the business world.  What would be the ideal business that you would like to begin and tell us about what you would study in college to prepare you for this career and achieve this goal.

2.       Do  you have any experience with the landscaping business? If so, tell us about it and how it has affected your educational plans post high school.

3.       Why did you apply for this scholarship?

4.       If  you started a small business, tell us about it: including the name of the business, how and when you started it, where it is now and where you expect to take it.  Tell us what you learned from this experience. Include positive and negative aspects.

5.       List the name of your small business. Describe the services you provide to your clients. How successful is your business and how do you measure that success.  How will this scholarship help you in the future with your business plans?

6.       Have you ever thought about having your own business? If so, what have you done toward reaching that goal?

7.      If there a question that you could form as part of this scholarship?  If so do that and answer it.