

# Stephanie Godri-Johnston Memorial Scholarship

**“Sometimes I wonder what my purpose in life has been. I think it was to have**



**Luke and Sarah.”** A statement Stephanie Godri-Johnston made during the time she was being treated for stage 4 colon cancer. Remembering her words and the answer that was given: “Stephanie ! Do touched in some way by just being you?” makes the choice to honor her with this scholarship that much more pertinent.

Concerned, caring, loving, the shoulder to cry on when someone needed to let tears flow, the ear to listen when someone needed to talk, the hands and heart to help others that were hurting or in need...that was Stephanie. She had an instinct for knowing the best way to provide help whether it was for her husband, children, family, friends, or those she had never met. Her help manifested itself in many ways. Baking goodies for sales to raise money for charitable purposes, giving clothing or other goods to help those who had a need no matter the circumstances. Reaching out to families new to a military base (her husband is a career soldier), welcoming them and following through on offers of assistance. She was generous in all ways, humbly giving of herself, never looking for anything in return. She felt that's the way you should be.

Stephanie was the youngest of four children. Using her brothers and sister as role models, she was an excellent student throughout her elementary, high school and college years. When she entered seventh grade she joined Track and Field participating in the hurdles, shot put, discus and javelin and enjoyed running as a member of the Cross Country team. She continued with both sports until her graduation in 1998. During those years, she broke the Junior High shot put record and the High School discus record.

Stephanie was a part of Science Olympiad beginning in the seventh grade. That is when she came under the influence of Miss Prescavage (Palmer) whom she later had as her Chemistry teacher. She instilled in Stephanie a love of Chemistry resulting in her attending and graduating from King’s College with a BS in Chemistry in 2002. She was also in the National Honor Society, Chorus, chosen Best & Brightest and voted “Most Likely To Succeed” by her senior classmates.

During her Junior High and Senior High years, Stephanie helped at her church by teaching CCD to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade children.

Following in the footsteps of her siblings, Stephanie wanted to be able to earn her own money; baby sitting at the age of twelve, moving on to waiting tables and later working as a cashier at a local supermarket. She had to learn time management in order to juggle school work, be involved in sports, have a part-time job and still have time to enjoy her friends and social activities as an active teenager. While attending King's College, Stephanie continued working two part time jobs and had an internship her senior year. Following graduation, she accepted a job in research & development, married in 2003 and less than a month later moved to Hawaii with her husband who is in the Army. While her husband was deployed to Iraq, she took a job teaching, enrolled in college and earned a Master of Arts in Education. Upon returning to the mainland, she moved three times, was on her own through two more deployments for her husband and became a mother. Three months after her second child was born, Stephanie was diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer. As with everything in her life, she went to the treatments with a smile on her face and love and concern for all those with whom she came in contact. She lost her life to colon cancer on May 10, 2012. She was a true *light*, starting with her infectious smile, that endeared her, not only to her family and friends but to all those with whom she came in contact, however brief.

Stephanie would be humbled and a little embarrassed by all the fuss we seem to be making over her, but she would be VERY pleased to know someone will benefit from all this *fuss*. The \$3,000.00 Stephanie Godri-Johnston Memorial Scholarship was created as a way to not only keep her memory alive and to reward student achievement, but to raise awareness for colon cancer. The award will be given in two payments. The first \$1,500.00 will be awarded at the celebration in May and the second \$1,500.00 will be awarded upon the selection committee receiving (through Mrs. Rabel, guidance secretary at WAHS) an official copy of the candidates first full year's grades which reflect a minimum 3.00 GPA.

Since 2013, five rounds of scholarships have been awarded in Stephanie's memory totally \$18,000.

To qualify for this scholarship, the candidate must hold a cumulative minimum GPA of at least an 90 and have a letter of acceptance from a 4 year college or university at the time of application. Preference will be given to a student who is currently competing in either (or both) Track & Field or Cross Country and has

been doing so for at least the last two consecutive years. The candidate must also participate in some form of volunteer activity that benefits others and possess similar character qualities as those of Stephanie. All candidates must complete an essay of at least 500 words discussing the following:

What challenges have you encountered and how have you handled them? How were you able to implement a balance between school work, volunteer activities, sports, job and your social life?