**The “Inspiration Lizzie” Scholarship**

**Elizabeth “Lizzie” Breznay, Wyoming Area Class of 2019**

**TRAILBLAZER BARRIER BREAKER INSPIRATIONAL**

**WARRIOR PRIDE! FOREVER A WARRIOR!**

Lizzie is very special and this award is extremely special.

 The family is pledging to award $1200.

Helene & Brian Breznay, Lizzie’s parents, together with Lizzie’s Aunt, Jeanine Wolczyk, have developed and wish to sponsor this scholarship to honor Lizzie and her remarkable four years of high school while attending Wyoming Area Secondary Center. Additionally, Lizzie would like to “pay it forward” to a future graduate of her alma mater by joining her family in sponsoring this scholarship to reward an exceptional student of the Wyoming Area Class of 2022!

In 2015, when Lizzie, a special needs student, rolled through the doors of Wyoming Area for the first time, she was welcomed and accepted with open arms. Lizzie received a fully integrated education including some advanced classes while attending Wyoming Area. She discovered new friends each year, some of whom continue to stay in touch. Lizzie, using her Tobii Eye Gaze Communication Device, was the Wednesday morning weather reporter on the WAVE! She was a member of the Key Club, the National Honor Society, Yearbook and Book Clubs. Lizzie enjoyed the fun and excitement under the Friday Night Lights at the “Jake” (Sobieski Memorial Stadium) with many of her friends on and off the field! The football players would help Lizzie ring the bell in the bell tower on the football field after every winning game! Lizzie attended the proms, went on class trips, joined the Drama Club and performed on stage for the hit play “Mamma Mia!”, was the Wyoming Area 2018 Homecoming Queen and graduated summa cum laude and was ranked 11th in her class! The students, faculty and staff at Wyoming Area always found a way to “make it happen” for Lizzie, to support and include Lizzie, to create the lasting memories that Lizzie and her family all hold so dearly in their hearts.

Then, it was time to apply for college scholarships. Lizzie applied, just like everyone else, and was awarded four scholarships by local families and businesses who believed in Lizzie. This was pivotal in inspiring our family to proceed with our own scholarship honoring Lizzie.

Lizzie’s parents will never forget a statement that the late Mr. Romanowski made to them at a parent teacher conference. He was describing how Lizzie, who uses an eye-gaze communication device, was observed communicating a complex math problem in Algebra II +++++ and never missing a beat. He said to us: “I have to admit, I wouldn’t believe it if I didn’t see it with my own eyes.” He, along with so many others at Wyoming Area, filled us, as her family, with great pride. The day that Lizzie was announced as the 2018 Homecoming Queen was another day of awesome pride for Lizzie’s family. The gymnasium roared when the announcement was made and everyone began shouting “Lizzie, Lizzie, Lizzie…”!

These moments along with the quality education, inclusion and acceptance that Lizzie received while at Wyoming Area is why we want, as a family, to “pay it forward”!

While diligently balancing all of her classes, Lizzie was determined to work hard at overcoming many of her mobility and communication obstacles to be able to enjoy her high school career to the fullest. We are extremely proud of Lizzie and very thankful for her success at Wyoming Area. As Lizzie sits in her wheelchair in front of her Tobii Eye Gaze Communication Device, she will tell you that the word “can’t” is not in Lizzie’s or her family’s vocabulary, “never give up” is a motto that we live by, and “we’re going to do everything that you want to do in life, just sometimes you have to do things a little differently”.

When Lizzie enters a room, she has a natural ability to light up that room with her infectious smile and outgoing personality. She is very inspirational to the Wyoming Area Family. Lizzie inspired her classmates, is loved by so many, and continues to inspire all who meet her. Those who are fortunate to have Lizzie touch their lives are better because of the experience.

Lizzie and her family have been inspired not only by Lizzie but also by the families of the scholarships that Lizzie received in her senior year at Wyoming Area.

The Wyoming Area family is touched by this display of gratitude and generosity by Lizzie and her family.

**WHO SHOULD APPLY FOR THIS SCHOLARSHIP?**

* Special Needs Students **NEED TO APPLY!**
* Students who have shown true, sincere friendship to someone with special needs either in the school setting or out in the real world **NEED TO APPLY!**
* Students who plan to further their education either as a Special Education Teacher, Physical, Occupational, or Speech Therapist, anything else in the medical field or any program of study that leads to a degree promoting improving the quality of life of those who may be physically or mentally challenged or less fortunate than others **NEED TO APPLY!**
* If you feel that you possess Lizzie’s attitude, her zest for life, her true, sincere concern for others, or the values of those who made Lizzie’s time at Wyoming Area such an awesome success, you may be just the person we are looking for to award this inaugural scholarship! **ANY** Wyoming Area graduating senior who has demonstrated the ability to work hard, be successful in their own unique way, overcome obstacles and inspire others as Lizzie has, **NEED TO APPLY!**
* Finally, because news broadcasting is near and dear to Lizzie’s heart, students who plan to continue their education to achieve a degree in broadcasting, journalism, electronic media, etc. either in television, radio or print **NEED TO APPLY!**
* We, as Lizzie’s family, work very diligently on a daily basis to assist Lizzie in living her “best life.” This scholarship is VERY IMPORTANT TO US. Along with the above criteria, if you are a thoughtful, caring, hard-working, successful Wyoming Area graduating senior, you **NEED TO APPLY!**

All applicants will be equally considered by “Team Lizzie” which would include Lizzie’s parents, her aunt, and of course, Lizzie herself.

**CRITERIA:** This scholarship is for a Wyoming Area graduating senior who is planning to attend a Trade or Technical School, a Community College or a 2 or 4 year College or University.

**ESSAY REQUIREMENT:** Applicants for this scholarship need to submit a solid ORIGINAL essay of at least 500 words detailing why you should be considered for and potentially become our FIRST recipient of “The Inspiration Lizzie Scholarship.”

The strength of the applicant pool will dictate how many awards will be presented.

Thank you for reading our scholarship story! Good luck in applying for your scholarships! Get started early and like Lizzie: never give up! Be the trailblazer, the barrier breaker, the trend setter, the person who is so inspirational, that you change someone else’s life for the better!

And be sure to get out there and shatter that glass ceiling!

**Sincerely,**

**Lizzie, Helene and Brian Breznay and Jeanine Wolczyk**