

Matthew Chipolis Memorial Scholarship

In the beginning I think every parent has a plan, a vision of their child as an adult – a blueprint – so to speak – of the final product. Not all children fulfill their parent’s expectations. A very few, however, exceed their parents vision and rewrite the plan to become a new model for what a young adult should be. Matthew Chipolis was that new model. In a world gone wrong, racked by war, poverty, disaster and injustice, Matthew was someone who made us feel right.



Matthew was not only a son, but an older brother to Christopher. He was his best friend and the positive role model that every young kid needs in today’s society. They shared a special bond, and being a sibling that was born much earlier, he looked out for his younger brother. Another role of responsibility that Matthew was not afraid to take on was fatherhood. Matt never got to fulfill his chance to become a father or see his beautiful little girl, Hannahh.



Matthew was a lifelong resident of Harding who was studying electrical engineering at LCCC, when his life was cut short by a tragic motorcycle accident. He was a 2010 graduate of Wyoming Area High School and was an excellent athlete and an avid sportsman, and took great pride in all the sports he played, but his greatest passion was football. His love of football began at age six when he became a member of the Rams organization. This love grew and he became a dedicated and proud member of the Warriors for his four years of high school.

Matt also belonged to the SADD and TATU club. But more than sports, Matt loved people, especially family and friends. He was a “people person”, outgoing and friendly; courteous and caring, helpful and giving and always tried to help people make good decisions. His ever present smile was infectious and brought cheer to everyone he came in contact with. The list of Matthew’s qualities seems almost endless; he was honest with a good understanding of right and wrong; he had strong convictions that were not easily swayed by peer pressure and he was outspoken when he saw an injustice.

As a final gesture of his giving and loving nature, Matthew provided life to five other people by being an organ donor. His spirit lives on in those lives. Matt’s parents are advocates for organ donor ship because of their experience. When Matt was in high school he wrote an essay on “The Road Not Taken” by Robert Frost. He said it was about thinking long and hard about making final decisions and not always following the crowd. Having exemplary character toward fellow classmates, being a dedicated athlete and having empathy for all people as well as good community involvement are the qualities which the applicants to this scholarship should possess. That will help Matt continue his journey on his road.

Family &
Friends
are
life's gifts

CRITERIA for SELECTION:

Applicant must be a graduating Wyoming Area senior who has been accepted into a 2 year or 4 year college or trade school program of higher learning or specialized education.

ESSAY: In an original written statement, of at least 500 words, relating a personal example(s) of how he/she has provided support to the community and how he/she has helped a peer experiencing difficult circumstances. Explain **why** the situation was important and **how** this expression of empathy and responsiveness made you feel.