**The Faith Over Fear Scholarship**

By Courtney DeLucca and family:

In a few short weeks, you will have the privilege of becoming part of a special group - the alumni of Wyoming Area. We are a very proud group made up of all different backgrounds and experiences, but the one thing we all have in common is the pride we have in being graduates of Wyoming Area. Courtney DeLucca shares that pride. However, she is blessed to be on both sides of a Warrior education - as a student and a teacher. She began school at Wyoming Area in 1986 when she enrolled in Kindergarten. One would think her experience with a Wyoming Area education would end when she graduated in 1999. Much to her delight, she was able to return just five years later. However, this time she was a member of the faculty as an elementary school teacher. It was throughout her experience as a teacher that she had the opportunity to meet so many wonderful students and families in the Wyoming Area community.

Courtney began teaching in 2004 as a third grade teacher at Tenth Street Elementary. That very first class of her own will always hold a special place in her heart. Unfortunately, Courtney suffered a great loss that year as well. Her mother passed away from a very rare form of cancer at the young age of 49. One student of that particular class, Alexa Malloy, shared a common loss as her third grade teacher when she also lost her mom as a young adult as well. Alexa entered Courtney’s life again this past January after learning about Courtney’s diagnosis with an early form of breast cancer. Courtney shared her experience from the diagnosis to the mastectomy on social media as a way to encourage women to get their screenings because early detection is so beneficial. Alexa read the post and felt compelled to help in some way.

To raise funds to help the DeLucca family with expenses incurred during Courtney’s diagnosis, surgery, and recovery, Alexa sold “**Courtney Kicks Cancer**” bracelets with “**Faith Over Fear**” printed on them as well. This kind gesture reminded Courtney just how blessed she was to be surrounded by a community of such caring, loving, and generous people. Being a teacher is what connected her to so many people like Alexa. It felt appropriate to pay it forward with the funds collected from the bracelet sale, so Courtney and her family began brainstorming which charities should receive the donations. While reflecting on how much being a teacher has helped her get through difficult times in her life, Courtney felt she should give back to the students and community of Wyoming Area by offering this scholarship in honor of all of her students, both past and present.

In December of 2021, Courtney experienced another health scare and had to focus her energy on faith and hope over fear. While going over a Science lesson with her fifth grade students at the Intermediate Center, she began to feel numbness and tingling sensations in her left hand and arm. Luckily, her students were able to go get the school nurse and nearby teachers to come offer assistance. Thankfully, it was a small stroke that only lasted a few minutes, but it was a very scary few minutes for both Courtney and the students who sat and observed what was happening to their teacher. Without them, she would not have known which symptoms of the stroke she was showing on her face and in her voice. This is another example of how Courtney’s students and coworkers came to her rescue.

Throughout the diagnosis with breast cancer and the unexpected stroke, Courtney was truly overwhelmed with the amount of support she received from not only her own family and friends, but also from the families she has met through Wyoming Area. Everyone’s support and encouragement are what helped her have faith over fear during this recent “health crisis” the past six months.

The recipient of this scholarship will be someone who has displayed the same ability to have courage, hope, and faith when faced with difficult circumstances in his or her life. It can be a circumstance they had to overcome themselves, or it may be one where they offered faith, hope, and support to someone close to them as they overcame the fear of an unfortunate situation.

**REQUIREMENTS:** All members of the Wyoming Area Class of 2022 are able to apply for this scholarship, however those pursuing a career in education may hold preference. This is not a requirement though. Please share your story with us.

**ESSAY:** Applicants should write a solid essay consisting of at least 500 words explaining why he or she is the best candidate for the **“Faith Over Fear**” **Scholarship**. Tell the selection committee about a time when you, or someone you love, had shown faith, hope, and courage to overcome a challenging or unexpected circumstance in their life. Also share your opinion as to why these traits are important in your own life. How will you use faith, hope, and courage to transition into the next phase of your life - adulthood? All personal experiences shared within the essays will be kept confidential among the scholarship selection committee.