



CREATING A MORE GIVING HOWARD COUNTY



## **The Amanda Post "AmandaWins" Soccer Association of Columbia/ Howard County (SAC/HC) Student-Athlete Scholarship**

This \$5,000 scholarship is offered in loving memory of Amanda Josephine Post, who passed away in 2009 during her freshman year at River Hill High School and in her ninth year as a Soccer Association of Columbia/Howard County player, due to complications from a bone marrow transplant (BMT) for relapsed Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML).

Amanda was diagnosed with AML as a seventh-grader at Folly Quarter Middle School, undergoing five rounds of month-long inpatient chemotherapy at the Children's Hospital at Sinai in Baltimore, and having entered remission after the first round. Upon returning to school in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, she made straight A's, and resumed playing travel soccer with her SAC/HC Lady Diplomats' team. In Fall 2008, she entered River Hill High School as a member of the Class of 2012 and secured a spot as a starting forward on the girls' JV soccer team, as well as began her seventh season as a Lady Diplomat, wearing her lucky number "24" (also her birthdate in April) on both jerseys. Halfway through the season her AML returned, at which time she had to undergo two relapse rounds of chemotherapy at Sinai, followed by a BMT at the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC.

Amanda loved being a member of the SAC/HC Lady Diplomats' soccer team. In Fall 2008, she was one of only three remaining original "Lady Dips" from the team that was started in her first year of eligible travel soccer play when she was eight years old. Prior to that, Amanda played for two years on SAC's "Blue Angels" recreational girls' soccer team. For a month in Fall 2008, Amanda lived with the knowledge that her leukemia may be returning, yet maintained straight A's in her classes, was the second highest scorer on her girls' JV soccer team, and continued as a starting forward on her Lady Dips' team. Amanda was incredibly proud to be a Lady Diplomat, wearing her SAC sportswear even while undergoing treatment and decorating her hospital rooms with pictures and posters of her beloved Lady Dips' team.

Amanda was a lifelong resident of Clarksville, and attended Glenelg Country School from Pre-K through fifth grades. In addition to excelling academically and on the soccer field, she performed in school plays, took dance, guitar, and horseback riding lessons, had been a gymnast and played girls' ice hockey, and was voted freshman Homecoming Princess by her RHHS classmates. Amanda was also involved with her family in fundraising for the pediatric expansion project for the Children's Hospital at Sinai in Baltimore, speaking about her AML in a fundraising video and presenting a poem about the day of her diagnosis to over 100 candidate donors. Amanda was absolutely passionate about her family, her friends, classmates and teammates, those who cared for her medically, and living her everyday life to the fullest.

The Amanda Post Memorial Fund was established by family, friends, classmates and teammates who experienced Amanda's vibrancy in their lives, witnessed her passion in the classroom, on the field, and in every other venture in which she participated, and were captivated by her joyful zest for living each moment to the fullest. The Amanda Post "AmandaWins" scholarships are named after her CarePage which is also named "AmandaWins" (<http://www.carepages.com/carepages/AmandaWins>), to reflect Amanda's winning attitude and lively spirit for everything she did in her life.

**Available annually from January-April for Howard County residents who are currently in their senior year at either a Howard County public high school or Maryland private high school, and have played on a SAC/HC travel or recreational team during one or more of their high school years.**

## Program Overview and Guidelines

Candidates for the **Amanda Post “AmandaWins” Soccer Association of Columbia/Howard County (SAC/HC) Student-Athlete Scholarship** must:

1. Be a Howard County resident who is currently in his/her senior year at either a Howard County public high school or Maryland private high school, and has played on a SAC/HC travel or recreational team during one or more of his/her high school years.
2. Be accepted at and plan to attend an accredited two- or four-year college/university or trade school.
3. Submit an essay of no more than 1000 words that shares the candidate's:
  - a. Educational plans & career goals.
  - b. The impact that being at student at his/her high school has had on his/her academic success.
  - c. The impact that participating on a SAC/HC travel or recreational soccer team has had during his/her high school career.
  - d. An example of “Winning” in the classroom, on the field, or elsewhere in his/her life, which reflects a joyful and zestful passion for living, consistent with that of Amanda's.
4. Provide two letters of recommendation and completed confidential evaluations, one from each a high school teacher and a SAC/HC coach.
5. Have achieved an unweighted 3.5 cumulative average through Grade 11, and maintained an unweighted grade point average of 3.5 through the first semester of Grade 12.

## Evaluation Criteria

All applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Student's essay.
2. Confidential teacher and coach evaluations and personal letters of recommendation.
3. Strength of student's transcript.
4. Financial need will be considered in the event of a tie.

## Deadline

Applicants, all materials for this application must be submitted to your school guidance counselor before March 31 of the current year. Guidance Counselors, please submit applications to the Columbia Foundation by **March 31** of the current year.