

*McKenzie Travis Memorial College Softball Scholarship
In Loving Memory of McKenzie Travis*

With the support of our family and friends, a scholarship fund has been established in loving memory of our daughter, McKenzie, who was killed January 22, 2006 in a car accident. This scholarship fund affords us the opportunity to keep McKenzie's memory alive in a way that has great meaning for us. For the third year running, it will be with great pride and honor that we present up to nine \$1500 scholarships.

From the age of two as a benchwarmer for her sisters' teams, McKenzie was involved in softball at some capacity or another. Over a ten-year span, she played recreationally for Midway and Holy Angel's CYO Teams, competitively for Midway Orange Crush and Delaware Orange Crush and was a four-year varsity starter for Newark High School. While her passion for the game waned at the collegiate level, she never lost site of the valuable experiences and life lessons she gained from her involvement in the sport and through volunteerism tenaciously gave back to the community that had been so good to her. While all criteria for the scholarship are attached, the successful scholarship recipient(s) will have a proven track record in the area of community service and/or volunteerism.



McKenzie could truly light up a room with her bubbly personality, deep dimples and million dollar smile. We could count on her to turn frowns upside down and to find humor in everyday things. She was a good student, an accomplished athlete, a fitness buff and navigationally and technologically gifted. Her friends called her the human GPS system. She was an avid football fan, loved music, the beach, her family and her friends. Above all, she was a good and beautiful person inside and out and a special member of our family. While her time with us was far too short, the impact she made on our lives and others was significant. Our lives were enriched forever by her presence.

We have appointed a non-biased committee to aid in the selection of the scholarship recipients. Although academic achievement will be considered, the ideal candidate(s) will be well rounded and charismatic and compassionate.

Thank you for your interest in keeping McKenzie's spirit alive.

John, Jody, Jessica & Dana Travis

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Eligibility Criteria - Delaware High School Senior, Graduating 2008

- ❖ Must currently play varsity softball
- ❖ Must have already been accepted to college and intending to play softball in college i.e. - already recruited or planning to try out as a walk on
- ❖ Minimum Cumulative 2.5 GPA
- ❖ Must have demonstrated Community Service, Volunteer Activity or meaningful Acts of Kindness **OR**

Eligibility Criteria - Currently playing softball at a Delaware College

- ❖ Minimum Cumulative 2.5 GPA
- ❖ Must have demonstrated Community Service, Volunteer Activity or meaningful Acts of Kindness **OR**

Eligibility Criteria - Participant in DIT Exposure Camp 7/17/08; Participant in Firecracker Tournament 7/4/08 or DIT Exposure Tournament 7/18-20/08 (Not Limited to Delaware)

- ❖ Must have graduated high school 2008
- ❖ Must have played varsity softball in 2008 season
- ❖ Must have already been accepted to college and intending to play softball in college i.e. - already recruited or planning to try out as a walk on
- ❖ Minimum Cumulative 2.5 GPA
- ❖ Must have demonstrated Community Service, Volunteer Activity or meaningful Acts of Kindness

Application Requirements:

- Complete application
- Provide one letter of reference
- Respond to essay question of choice - selections will be **heavily** weighted on the quality and content
- Provide photocopy proof of cumulative GPA

Submit Application Packet to:

McKenzie Travis Memorial College Softball Scholarship
PO Box 898
New Castle, DE 19720

Application Deadline:

All applications complete with supporting documentation must be received at the address above *no later than Friday, May 16th* for consideration. Delaware High School Scholarship winners will be announced at the Blue Gold Softball game in June. All other recipients will be contacted directly no later than June 15, 2008.

Total Scholarships to be Awarded in the amount of \$1500 each

2 Delaware High School Graduates
1 Current Delaware College Player
1 DIT NFCA Exposure Camp Participant
1 Participant from Firecracker or DIT Exposure Tournament
Up to an additional 4 at large meeting any of requirements above.

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Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Address: _____

High School: _____ GPA: _____ College: _____

Student Involvement and Accomplishments (i.e. Clubs, Organizations, Other Sports):

Community Involvement and/or one-time Volunteer Activities:

Hobbies:

Submit application with one letter of reference from a non-family member that speaks to your character and worthiness for this scholarship.

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Essay Options. Please respond to the essay of your choice. (While there is no established length requirement for the essay, please ensure you provide an adequate response and that it is grammatically correct as it will be heavily weighted.)

Parents who introduce their children to outdoor team sports at a young age usually do so for one of or a combination of three reasons – so their children can make new friends, so their children can get fresh air and exercise or so their children can build on what appears to be a natural talent. As children mature, the expectation is that they will learn some valuable life lessons that will serve them well as adults. We knew McKenzie learned one of those important lessons when she was pitching, game tied, runner on third, bottom of the seventh, an infield hit gets overthrown by shortstop to the catcher, her team loses 3 to 2. The shortstop apologized for losing the game; McKenzie responded “it takes all of us to win; it takes all of us to lose – we’ll get them next time.” List and tell us a little bit about three things that you have learned from team participation.

In our family, we used to have a lot of discussions about birth order – that people behave the way they do because of their placement in the family and that placement in the family is one of the many things that shapes your character. McKenzie was the youngest of three girls. One of the positive things was that she was the baby, Daddy’s little girl and pretty much spoiled by all of us. One of the negatives was the constant comparison to her older sisters creating the struggle to become her own person and she definitely became one of a kind. What is your family composition and birth order and what have been the advantages and disadvantages of being first born, middle child or the baby? (For clarity, if there are more than 3 children, all children before first and last are middle children).

We taught our children that each day is a gift – that you are never guaranteed tomorrow and that when each family member walks out the door there is no guarantee they will return. Never in our wildest imagination would we have guessed how true this could be. Because of that lesson, however, McKenzie’s last words to us walking out the door or on the phone were always “I love you” and she gave the best hugs. Nothing can compensate for our loss but in addition to wonderful memories McKenzie gave us, we can always cherish her last words to us for they were “I love you.” Please share something powerful that you have learned from a parent, family member, clergy member, teacher or friend for which you are grateful and have applied to your every day life.

Like all of us McKenzie had her strengths and weaknesses. One of her strengths was her acceptance of all people. She was not judgmental and could develop a rapport with anyone of any age. Procrastination was probably one of her biggest weaknesses – she never did anything in advance, always right at the deadline or better yet a day late. If someone close to you were to tell us of one strength and one weakness you have, what would they say and why? Don’t shy away from this question just because of the weakness. Everybody has them. It takes a bigger person to admit them.