

My name is Mark Cipolla Jr, I am a senior at Bedford High School in Bedford, Massachusetts. Growing up in a military family, I've moved around a lot and I have attended six schools in five different states. I actually will finish in the same school district that I started pre-school, which cannot be said by many military children. At school I've participated in outdoor track, I run the 100m and 200m. I also participate in a Rec basketball league for the school. I love basketball, basketball keeps me in shape and I love the game. I currently work at Dunkin Donuts. I enjoy working there even though it is stressful sometimes, the job gives me a challenge and it feels good to learn new skills and to work hard and finish the tasks assigned to me. I got my license in May of 2017, so I drive to school and work.

Alports syndrome is something that used to add complications in my life. When I read and learn about my own disorder, I comprehended the effects that Alports had on my life; I was scared. I understand since I have the rarest form of Alports not many doctors know a lot about my condition. I've had 7 different nephrologists and all of them have had a different perspective on my condition. It wasn't until my teenage years I decided to just go with the flow with my condition. I can't live my life worrying about my future with my disease, so I just do things that make me happy. Now I still take care of myself of course. I take

medicine for my Alports and see my nephrologist every now and then for checkups. Alports can impact me positively and negatively, but only I can control how Alports can affect me emotionally. I do my best to feel blessed instead of a burden.

With this scholarship money, I plan to get my bachelor's degree for rehabilitation services. I would use it for tuition and room and board towards my undergraduate degree. Upon completion of my undergraduate degree, I plan to seek employment in the rehabilitation services field. I want to work with people struggling with disorders, such as Post Dramatic Stress Disorder, also known as PTSD. I want to work with these people because being a military child and living around military personnel that I have witnessed return from Iraq and Afghanistan, I know this is going to be a concern that will continue. I've seen my fair share of soldiers and airmen with PTSD and I've always felt the need to help them. With the proper education and training that the scholarship money would help me pay for, I could reach my goal of being a specialist for people with PTSD.

In conclusion, thank you for reading my application. I hope I gave you all the information needed for you to understand how important this opportunity is for me. I would love to use this scholarship money to, help me with my finances

for college, be able to get the training I need to help others who need rehabilitation services, and to show myself and others around me that I'm using my disease for something positive instead of letting it hold me back. Alports has given me the opportunity to overcome obstacles that others haven't had too, and by doing that it has made me a stronger person. Thank you again for your time.