

The Scholarship Committee is proud to announce the 1st annual award of the Charlie Ash Scholarship to Rayven Amaya. She is a recent graduate of Indio High School with plans to attend Virginia Wesleyan University and pursue a career in nursing.

Rayven graduated with a 3.9 GPA and comes from a long line of Masons, Eastern Star, and Job's Daughters. Rayven was, in fact, very active in Job's Daughters and rose up through the stations to the Honored Queen. Here is what Rayven wrote to us and why we found her to be a deserving recipient of our scholarship, not only for her accomplishments, but someone who, with our support, can help attain her educational goals.

"My dream has always been to be a nurse. I have a family member who is a nurse and I remember how much I loved hearing her stories about her job, it seemed so exciting to help the people in your community. I would love the opportunity to be able to help those in need and be a part of the healthcare system that is relied on by many.

Growing up, my mom was always taking care of my great grandparents, and I loved to help. I think this is where my passion for nursing began. Although nursing is a very popular career, I still feel I can make an impact in the medical field as well as my community. Considering there is always a high demand for nurses, it is very competitive to get into a nursing program at any school. With this in mind I believe I have excelled in school, I have maintained above average grades throughout all of my classes.

School has always been important to me, as well as an important part of my life. I have always taken school seriously because at a young age, college has always been a part of my education plan. I always tried my best in school because college is not going to pay for itself, nor is it a feasible expense for my family. This is the reason I am eager to apply and earn any type of scholarship that will help my family and I on my path to my higher education.

My family comes from very humble beginnings. My parents work extremely hard for what we have and that is the determination that I strive for within my own life. As a first generation college student, it is my responsibility that I maintain the same effort and persistence that my parents have shown me through their work, and apply that to my studies. I hope my continuous hard work and achievements prove me worthy of receiving a scholarship which will provide tremendous relief to my parents when it comes to the loans and debt that come with the pursuit of a higher education. Not only is my dedication focused on my schoolwork, I am also

continuously involved in sports at Indio High School.

Along with my academics, I am also very committed to sports. I put in the same amount of effort in my schoolwork, as I do my contributions to sports. I have been very active since I was a young child. I was on my elementary school's cheerleading team while also participating in a competitive cheer team. Then going into middle school I began Taekwondo, where I earned my first dan black belt. Then in high school I spent three years as a cheerleader, three as a member of the swim team, and one year on the girl's water polo team. I held leadership positions on the cheer team as well as water polo team. Sports have been just as important to me as my academics. Sadly, due to recent world events, my sports career in high school has been cut short."