

Leo & Foundation,

Thank you so much for the Scholarship and all you have done for our community. Seeing how you have turned tragedy into something so positive and amazing will always continue to inspire me.

Thanks for all that you do.

All the Best.



Dear Leo + the McCarthy Family,

Thank you so much for selecting me as one of the 2022 recipients of the Mariah's Challenge Scholarship. I am both honored + grateful that I get to represent Mariah's Challenge. With the help of this scholarship, I will be continuing my education at the University of Montana Western to pursue a degree in psychology. Thank you again for all that you do!

Dear Leo and family,

Thank you so much for awarding me with the Mariah's Challenge Scholarship. This scholarship I was so passionate about because I want people to know that not drinking does not make you miss out on things. This generous scholarship will help me to further my education.

Sincerely,

Leo,

Thank you for choosing me as one of the recipients of the Mariah's Challenge scholarship. I promise to do good with the scholarship.

Thank you,

Hallmark

Dear Leo,

Thank you so much for the "Marian's Challenge Scholarship"! It truly is an honor to be one of the chosen recipients. This is going towards my goal of becoming a Neonatal Pharmacist. I hope you and your family had an excellant Sumener and are all doing great!

Hugs,

Dear Leo,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to recieve the Mariah's challenge Scholarship. you are such an inspiration to so many people and you are someone I Look up to. The way you continue to celebrate Mariah is so awesome. Accepting the challenge has made me promise to myself that I will never drink and drive or even get in the car with Someone who has been drinking. I hope to influence as many people as I can to do the Same. you and your family are amazing humans. Thank you so much.

Mariah's Challenge,

Thank you so much for awarding me with your scholarship. It will be extremely helpful towards my education. I greatly appreciate this scholarship to further my education.


Thankyou
Mariah's Challenge!!
NO QUARTER
1718
Bad Neighborhood Barbell Powerlifting Team

Dear Leo,

Thank you so much for choosing me as a recipient of the Mariah's Challenge Scholarship. I am proud to be able to represent what the scholarship and foundation stand for and will do my best to make you proud!

Dear Mr. McCarthy,

Thank you so much for allowing me the opportunity to recieve the Mariah's Challenge scholarship. It is deeply appreciated!

Thank you,

Dear Leo:

I would like to take the time to thank you for honoring me as a Mariah's Challenge Scholarship recipient. I know how much time and dedication you put into Mariah's Challenge, and how many people you help every year. Thank you for helping me further my education at an amazing school.

11-5-2007

Leo,

Wow, I had this letter all planned out in my head and now I can't seem to find the words to start it so, I am just going to say what I need to say.

Thursday, November 1st was an amazing day for me. I saw a man, who had every right in the world to be bitter, angry, full of hate, mad, and destroyed, stand up in front of a large group of people and talk about things like hope, love, and making smart decisions. A man who, in an all too often dark world, at the darkest of times, was able to smile and laugh. I would have never thought that you would have made it all the way through that speech without crying. It took me about 45 seconds of listening to you to tear up. I don't know how you did it man. Just another testament to how strong you are. To stand there and smile, telling the kids to not only not drink and drive, but to not drink at all.

I left St. Ann's church that day with a different feeling. I felt good about myself and life in general. I learned a lot about the strength of people and when times get dark, people come together. It was a renovation of hope and happiness in my life.

I just needed to tell you thanks for standing up and being a perfect symbol of strength and compassion. The world would be a much better place if we had more Leo McCarthy's. You're a tremendous soul and a great person. I have more respect for you than I think you will ever understand. I hope that every time you see that football with all those signatures on it that you know that you are a big part of a brotherhood that always has each others backs. A brotherhood that is stronger than life and death and will always survive life and death. You need to know that you have inspired me and many others, I'm sure. I consider myself fortunate and blessed to have been able to join the Digger family and get to know you as a friend and as a man. I hope one day to be half the man, father, husband that you are. You are a soldier and I think that we all have a little to learn from you and your graciousness. I have nothing to offer in return except maybe a laugh or a shoulder to cry on or someone to talk to. All of which will always be here if you ever need them.

I love you brother.

"If god will bring you to it, he will bring you through it"

Leo,

I guess I should start by saying thank you! Mariah's Challenge helped save my life! I was an obese, dyed in the wool bourbon junkie with three teenagers of my own and a rapidly failing marriage. I tried numerous times to quit on my own without success. But on Feb. 8, 2008 my wife & I went to a basketball game. Leo, I knew that if I had one-tenth the courage you showed that night that I could do anything I set my mind to. I also knew that I'd taken my last drink.

On Sunday morning, July 11th, I will run the ½ marathon in Missoula. I will proudly wear my Mariah's Challenge wristbands to remind me of where I was, where I am now, and what it took to get me here.

God bless you & your family, Leo!

Sincerely,

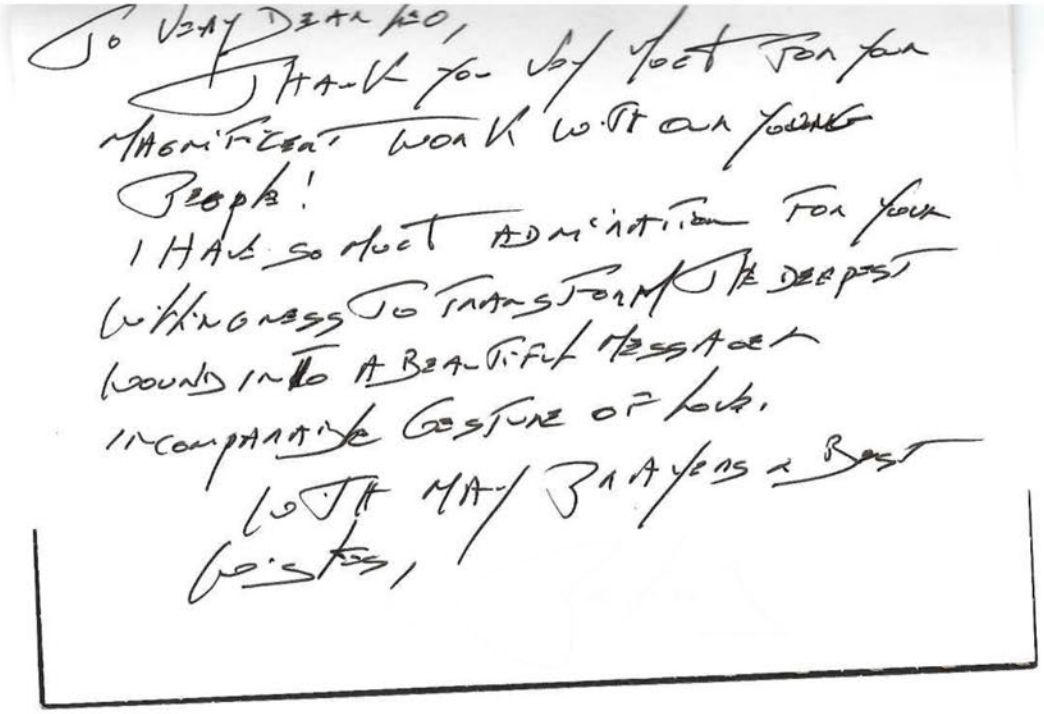
Leo,

I actually wrote this 2 weeks ago but for some reason I never sent it. Congratulations on Missoula! Best of luck in New York. My family & I will be cheering for all of you!

-k







Jo Vay Dear Ed,
Thank you very much for your magnificent work with our young people!
I have so much admiration for your willingness to transform the deepest wounds into a beautiful message of love.
In compassionate gesture of love.
With my prayers + best wishes,

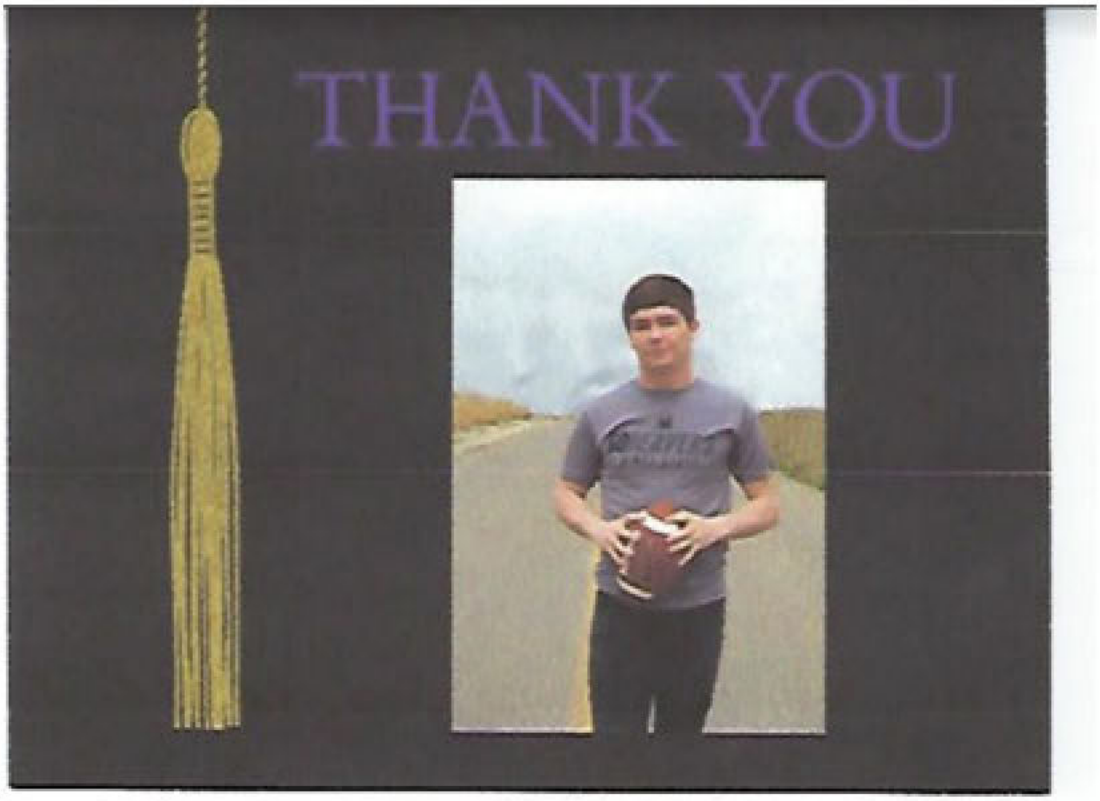


THANK YOU

Dear McCarthy Family,

Thank you so much for choosing me to receive the Mariah's Challenge Scholarship as well as represent your Foundation as a 2020 Messenger. I wish you all the best.

Sincerely,



Mariah's Challenge Scholarship Committee,

Thank you so much for selecting me as the recipient of the Mariah's Challenge Scholarship. I am honored to have been chosen to receive this Scholarship. I will put it to great use as I attend Minot State University in the fall.

June 28, 2020

Mariah's Challenge Scholarship
Attn: Leo McCarthy and family
15 Discovery Dr.
Butte, MT 59701

Dear McCarthy family,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for awarding me with the Mariah's Challenge Scholarship. As a student recipient, the financial support you are gifting me with will give me a start towards a successful future. It has been an honor to uphold the mission statement you have instilled within our community and it will be a true pleasure to be one of the many students that will help bring your vision of a long and prosperous future into light.

As I start my college education to pursue a degree is nursing, I plan to be diligent in my studies in order to become the professional I desire to be. In the beginning, I was unsure as to what my plans were for the future and what pathway I would take to further my education. However, I have always known that I wanted to be involved with and give back to the people in my community. Discovering what I believe to be my purpose for the future has led me to enroll at Montana Technological University in the nursing program.

Having worked with multiple families, companies, and elderly individuals within my own community, I look forward to working within a clinical environment or at a hospital on the

obstetrics/labor and delivery floor. Having the opportunity to welcome life into the world and assist with providing care, support, and empathy to those in need and making a difference in the lives of many is something I truly look forward to. Knowing that I have the opportunity to better another's life and health each and every day is what has sparked my career interests from the beginning and will continue to be my inspiration.

Again, I am sincerely grateful for the opportunity to be a recipient of such an amazing scholarship. Thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness. You will continue to help me work towards achieving success throughout my future endeavors at Montana Technological University and beyond. I cannot thank Mariah's Challenge and your family enough.

Sincerely

Dear Leo McCarthy

I would Love to thank
You For selecting me
For the marians Challenge
Scholarship it is a great
honor to me that i was
Chosen for this award.
I would like you to know
the money is going to
help me get through nursing
School so i can go on and
help save lives and set
great examples for children
and teenagers like myself.

Sincerely

Leon
Thank you so much for the pins! Our families greatly appreciated them! It is completely amazing how you all have turned this event into such a positive thing! Mariah would be so proud! You have strength & courage beyond what many of us have. Thank you for that as it helps us in dealing w/ our own losses! If there is anything you or your family needs let me know!
Thank you so much again!

Dear Manan's Challenge.

Thank you very much for selecting me as a scholarship recipient. It will definitely come in handy when I start school in the fall. I find the work that all of you do amazing. Thank you for all that you do for our community.

The Mariah's challenge

Thank you for your scholarship. I appreciate the assistance towards my future college plans.

Scholarship Committee,

Thank you so much for selecting me as a recipient for the Mariah's Challenge Scholarship. I truely feel honored and appreciate your generosity. Your scholarship will help me to achieve my lifelong goal of becoming an orthodontist.

Sincerely,

Dear Mariah's Challenge Foundation, June, '12

Thank you so much for selecting me for this year's Mariah's Challenge Scholarship. I am honored to have received the award, and plan to use it to pay for college tuition.

Thank you! Sincerely,

Dear Leo, It is with deep gratitude we offer you our thanks for arriving to East Middle School as the "Schwa." We have taken on this project this year, being the 1st school in Butte to take on One Book/one Community. When you arrived, the students did not yet know what was about to happen. As you spoke, there was a hush in the room, as you could tell many teenagers relate to the "Schwa Effect" of sometimes feeling invisible or unnoticed. You were the perfect motivation into our introduction, given shortly after you spoke. Thanks so much for coming to EMS every year as our most admired guest speaker. Your message is always

...your thoughtfulness

brightened my day!

well received since you have the gift of an effective presentation. Thanks for all you + Janice do for the youth of Butte - we are watching and we do believe in what you are doing. Sincerely,

Mariah's Challenge
Scholarship Foundation~

I just wanted to tell you
how honored and thankful I
am to accept Mariah's Challenge
Scholarship. I am proud of the
direction the Challenge has kept
me moving in, and I promise
to continue to help spread the
message of the challenge to
others. Thank you all
so much for all you
have done for our
community!

Dear Leo,

Thank you so much for allowing me the honor of being a part of Marian's challenge. It is truly a program that has made such a difference in our community and has inspired so many people in so many different ways! It has made me feel proud to stick to what I believe in. You are truly such an inspiration to me and Marian and Jenna are really lucky to have you as their dad! Thanks again, and the reception was a very special night in my life!

Dear Janice + Leo,

Thank you very much for the Lovin evening last night. It was everything and even more than I expected. The recipients need to frame those scholarships and hang them in their dorm rooms. This is a real achievement when you can look in the mirror and accept Marist's Motto. You both have made a real difference in our community.

Again thanks + Fr. Bleau

1ST Place

7th grade

1

Red Ribbon Week Essay

7th grade

"Don't do drugs" is a common phrase you hear coming out of many adults mouths, especially teachers and parents. But what does that mean to kids? nothing. Well, we may think about it and then just shake it off. Now, since I have gotten into middle school, teachers are actually taking more of the class time to explain what drugs exactly do. Middle schoolers still don't get it though. I know about 5 kids that are in my classes that smoke pot, smoke tobacco and drink. All these kids that are doing this have parents who smoke. Parents are a huge influence on kids and we look up to them more than they can imagine. By not smoking or doing drugs my parents are a big in influencing me to not do drugs. That is just one person changing my life. If everyone did one little thing like this we wouldn't have such a big problem.

My community is another perfect example of how one person can make a big difference. About a year ago, Maria McCarthy, a freshman at Butte High, died in a car crash. Maria and 2 other friends were just walking home and were hit by a drunk driver. Because of this instance Maria's dad has started a program called Mariah's Challenge. Many of Butte's people are fighting strong for Mariah's Challenge and to stop people, especially kids, from drinking and driving drunk. Mariah's Challenge is growing day by day and I continue to see it get bigger and better.

I believe people can make a difference if they just go out there and don't ever stop trying. Lots of people don't

just get up and do something. They just think the opportunity will come to them, but let me tell you something, it doesn't. People who believe in making a difference, I feel, have to show the kids what they are doing to themselves. The fact that drugs are bad doesn't get into their minds. For instance, when I was in 5th grade I went to an exhibit called Body World and I saw what your lungs and organs look like if you smoke and do drugs. Believe me they aren't pretty. But if teachers and parents get out there and show the kids what actually is going to happen to them, they will then understand what drugs are going to do to their body. When one or more people make a stand they can help at least one person from ruining their life.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for honoring me with the Mariah's Challeneg Scholarship. Your scholarship has enabled me to pursue my college degree at Montana State University-Northern beginning Fall 2009. I will be majoring in Graphic Design and attaining a minor in Computer Information Systems. Thanks to your generosity, my costs for college have been deferred to the point that I am able to pay for my first year of college without placing a financial burden on my family. I appreciate you awarding this scholarship and want you to know you have made my college aspirations much easier to attain.

Thanks Again,

5/2/11

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Kilmer,

Thank you so much for awarding me with the Mariah's Challenge Scholarship. Mariah's Challenge is very important in instituting a safe social culture in Butte Montana, and I am proud to contribute to this change. I fully intend to take this change with me to college next year.

Thanks again!

To whom it may concern,

I had recently received the Mariah's Challenge Scholarship. I just wanted to take a minute and say thank you for the scholarship. I am very thankful and much honored to have received the Mariah's Challenge Scholarship. Your program is excellent and changing Butte for the better.

With this scholarship, I am going to show people of all ages what it takes. You just have to have high self-esteem and be very confident in yourself. When someone asks you if you want to drink or do drugs all you have to do is say no! That's easier said than done, but if you have high self-esteem and self-confidence you will be able to do it without thinking. All you have to do is stay true to yourself and always know you are doing the right thing.

I will stick to what I say for the rest of my life. I accept Mariah's Challenge. Once again, thank you for this scholarship.

Dear Mariah's Challenge Committee :

Thank you very much for selecting me as one of the recipients for the Mariah's Challenge Scholarship. It is greatly appreciated and will be a huge help financially.

This scholarship will be of great assistance to me in my goal of attaining a college degree. It is wonderful to know that there are people like you who support a student's efforts to excel.

Again, thank you very much for your generosity.

Sincerely,

August 15, 2011

Mariah's Challenge Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 66
Butte, Montana 59701

To: Mariah's Challenge Scholarship Committee

Thank you very much for helping me finance my first year at Montana Tech University. I enjoyed Montana Tech, however I have decided to enroll in online classes at Columbia Southern University for Criminal Justice. I have completed the application process to CSU and am awaiting my acceptance. When I do get accepted I will contact you with CSU's information for the remainder of my scholarship.

I did contact Montana Tech University and I am having the funds sent back to your committee.

Thank you again and I will keep you well informed of my plans for this next year.

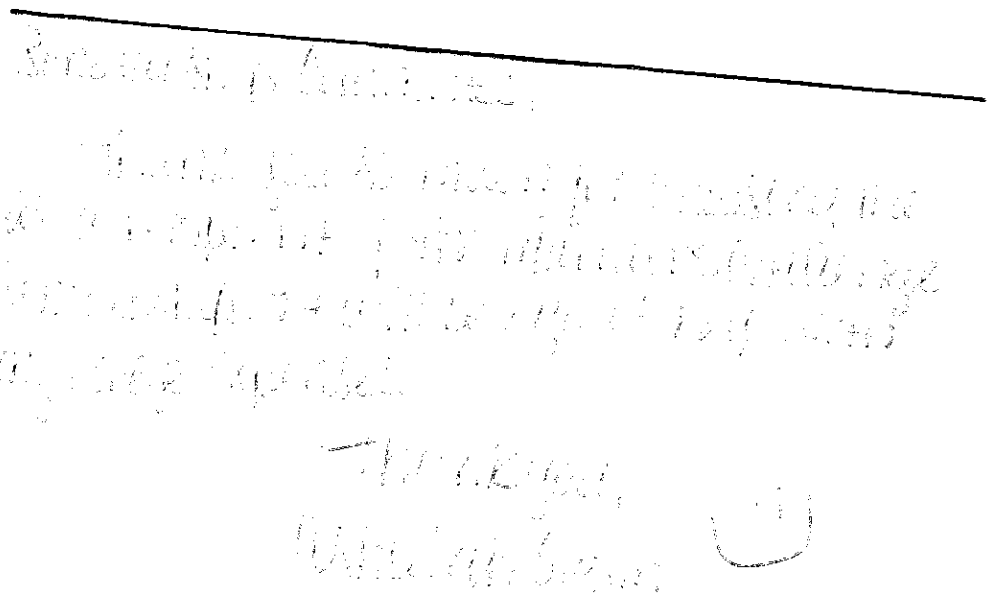
Ceo,

I wanted to take the time to thank you for the time and energy you have put in to Serving your Community to prevent underage drinking and the prevention of impaired driving. People like you make Montana a better place!

Congratulations!

You make us proud.

The JHS mariah's challenge
leadership team - Boulder, MT



thank you

ear Harlan's Challenge
Scholarship Committee:

hank you so much
r awarding me with
Scholarship this year.
t will help out a lot!!
am so glad that
u are honoring Harlan
in so many ways.
Thanks again

Dear Mr. Warm, Brad and Harlan's
Challenge,
Thank you so much for choosing
me as a Harlan's Challenge Scholarship
award recipient. I am so sorry I
was unable to make it to the
banquet. I am very excited about
attending Montana Tech in the fall.
Thank you again for choosing me.
Thanks again.

Dear Scholarship Committee,

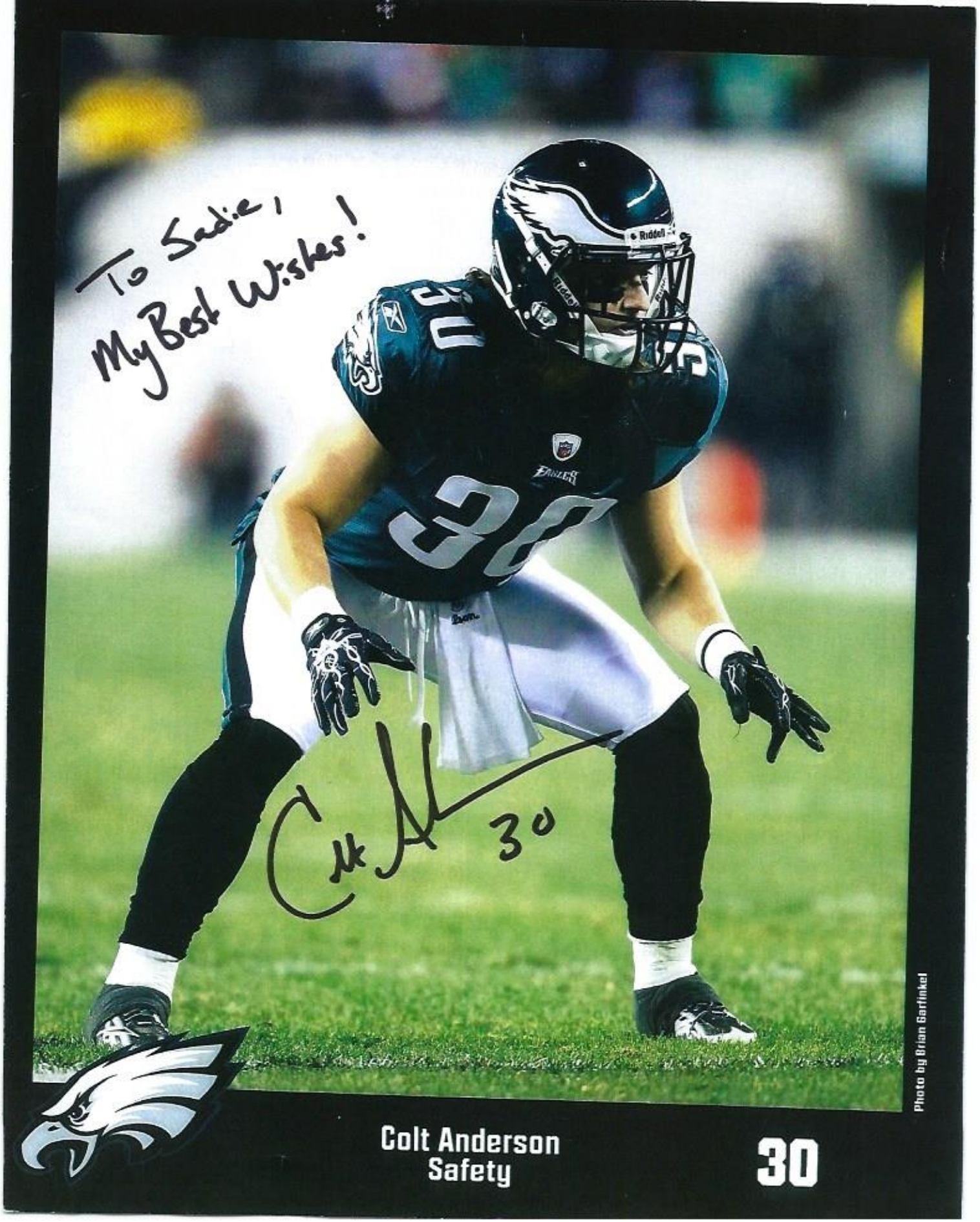
Thank you very much for awarding me your most generous scholarship. I am grateful and honored and assure you, it will be put to good use

Thank you again

Thank You

On Behalf of the Student Council, the Lima Faculty and Staff and the school board, we would like to thank you for the presentation and for your time to come speak to a community as small as ours. Words cannot express the impact that the enlightening words had upon our community. I don't think there was dry eye in our lunch room. We appreciate the views and as you know have accepted the challenge and are going to pursue how to gain our own chapter in it. Again we thank you and hope to keep a good thing going here in Lima


GOING
BEYOND


To Sadie,
My Best Wishes!
30
Photo by Brian Bartlinkel
Colt Anderson
Safety
30

May 20, 2020

The McCarthy Family

Mariah's Challenge

P.O. Box 66

Butte, MT 59703

Dear the McCarthy family,

Thank you so much for selecting me as a recipient for the Mariah's Challenge scholarship. I enjoyed the opportunity to share with you a little bit about myself and my future plans. I am very excited to start this new chapter of my life and appreciate your support!

Thank you again!

October 18, 2011

Mariah Daye McCarthy Scholarship Foundation, LLC
Butte, MT 59703

Dear Mr. McCarthy:

I would like to thank you for taking the time to read this letter. As a high school student from New York, I am very fascinated with the foundation you have created, since I too grow up in a town where underage drinking is all too popular. I am very sorry about what happened to your daughter, and I feel that your actions in response to the tragic accident reflect your compassionate and guiding nature. The devotion you have to Mariah's fund is exceptional and I am grateful that people like you exist to educate and provide a positive influence to many teenagers. I am aware that you are primarily based in Montana and I am interested in starting a program like that of Mariah's fund here in the state of New York. I would like to take the necessary steps to develop an anti-underage drinking foundation close to home.

It is all too often that a minor thinks they are alright to drive home after being out drinking, when in fact they are not. Not only do they put their own lives at risk, but they also put other people on the road in danger as well. In New York, not too many people are aware of the dangers of underage drinking, as not enough is being done to prevent it. Like with Mariah's Challenge, I feel that encouraging students to pledge not to drink and drive, will encourage many teenagers to think before they act. By sponsoring town events and educating students and parents, many people may be discouraged from drinking and driving. I am asking for your help Mr. McCarthy, because I would like to make a difference within my community and eventually encourage new legislation within my state. I want to make the roads a safer place; however, I am only a teenager, and I am therefor unaware of how to create a non- profit organization that deals with underage alcohol prevention. Your program is very successful, which leads me to believe you could offer me some advice on how to get started. I would really appreciate learning how to help save some lives, before it is too late.

Again, I would like to show my gratitude to your dedication and involvement in Mariah's fund. I think what you are doing is exceptional, and you have already saved more lives than you know. You have inspired me to try and promote healthy, responsible lifestyles within my own community. I would appreciate if you could get back to me and inform me on how to approach starting an organization. I would love to make as much of a difference in New York, as you and your family have in Montana. Thank you very much for your time.



Leo, Janice, & Jenna,

Thank you so much for selecting me as a recipient for the Mariah's Challenge Scholarship! I was lucky I had Mariah's Challenge to guide me in high school. I look forward to my next chapter at Carroll College, and I know you are helping to make it possible! Thank you again. Stay healthy



Dear Mariah's Challenge foundation,

Thank you so much for the scholarship and all of the opportunities it will give me. Also, thank you for caring about Butte's youth. It really makes a difference.



Thank You

BUTTE DEPOT
CROSSROADS SHOOTOUT
Basketball Tournament

398 Total Teams in seven years and $29,000 Total Donated in eight years

www.buttecrossroadsshootout.com
www.mariahschallenge.com

A BENEFIT FOR Mariah's Challenge

On behalf of the 8th Annual - The Depot - Crossroads Shootout we would like to thank you for you donation and contribution. In 8 years we have donated $29,000 to Mariah's Challenge. We are excited for the 9th Annual tournament next April. Thanks again and have a great Summer.


GIFT OF LIFE
DONOR
ORGAN · EYE
TISSUE · DONATION

Willink Middle School

900 Publishers Parkway

Webster NY 14580

January 2, 2013

Dear Mr. McCarthy ,

In our English class we had to research the CNN 2012 hero's. Out of all of the stories I watched and read about your story impressed me the most.

Before I say anything I would like to say that I am sorry for your loss. I can't imagine the frustration you might be going through, but at the same time it takes a lot of courage to turn a tragedy into something that encourages kids to fight for their own safety as well as other peoples. Being a hero doesn't mean looking out for yourself it means you are looking out for other people which is exactly what you are doing so that's why I think you deserve the title, hero.

If you could explain a hero I would describe them as a person who fights for what they believe in, not only do they fight for their beliefs but they fight fights that some people can't fight for themselves.

Thank you so much for everything you've done for kids around the country who wants to fight abuse of alcohol and alcohol related deaths. It really means a lot to kids and their parents.

madd™
Mothers Against Drunk Driving
Morgan County
madd.org

P.O. Box 265
Jacksonville, Illinois 62651

(217) 243-7570
(877) 623-3435 victim support

Janice & Leo McCarthy
15 Discovery Drive
Butte, Montana 59701-3124

Dear Janice, Leo & Family:

Families have many anniversaries to celebrate. Anniversaries were meant to celebrate the good things in life. Your family and mine look at our children's anniversaries in a much different manner and one we dread as the date approaches each year. The cemetery was not intended to be the place we visit our children.

I look at your Miriah's Challenge website and I am amazed at what you have accomplished in saving lives in the past five years and to keep Mariah's name before everyone that loved her. Marilyn and I say "thank you" for taking your tragedy and turning it in to keeping other families from the "knock-on-the-door" telling them that a lived one has been killed in an alcohol-related crash.

When I read some of the Mariah's Challenge website and saw the comment by Courtney Cashell and Josh Panasuk I realized that your crusade is working. When young people see the change in attitudes among their peers you know your message is one that hits home. The Angel Mariah song written and recorded by Chad Okrusch tells it all. At 14 Mariah was an amazing young girl with a future. She reminds me of our own 'angel" that had a future but was robbed by driver who made a terrible decision to drink & drive.

When you have six (6) states with 31 communities supporting Mariah's Challenge you have to be pleased that your message is getting to our young people across the United States. Thank you for that! A reduced alcohol-related fatality in Butte by 44% in one year shows the power of Mariah's Challenge.

I know from experience that October 28 will be a difficult day for all of you. Every minute will be relived on that fateful day but rest assured that people will never forget Mariah and the beautiful person she was.

I keep voting for Leo McCarthy in the CNN poll and I know good results will come from this exceptional recognition for a great guy (family)! We'll have you in our prayers on the 28th.

God Bless,

George

George & Marilyn Murphy
1659 S. Main
South Jacksonville, IL 62650


madd™

Thanks again for speaking at MADD's National Conference!