

## **Down Syndrome Parents Group of WNY Eric Hetzelt Memorial Scholarship**

The WNY Down Syndrome community lost a great role model and the world lost a genuinely good man on December 30, 2015 with the sudden passing of 37 year old Eric Hetzelt. Eric was an inspiration to all who met him and proved that "disability" can equal "capability".

Eric was an accomplished athlete in swimming, bowling and baseball. He had a longtime involvement in Special Olympics, both as an athlete, and as a coach. Eric also participated in Challenged Athletes Participating in Sports, WNY (C.A.P.S.) He was an avid fan and supporter of all the Buffalo sports teams. Eric was also involved in the community as well as an usher at his church. Additionally, he worked part time behind the deli counter at the Wegmans on Alberta Drive for over 16 years.

Eric was a devoted son to Carol and Erwin Hetzelt, and loving brother to his three sisters and a fun, loving uncle to their children. His mother, Carol Hetzelt was the driving force, a true trailblazer in the formation of the Down Syndrome Parents Group of WNY. It was after Eric was born, that she recognized the significant lack of support and information for parents who have children with Down syndrome. It was her initiative that connected parents, health care professionals and community members together to share knowledge, and create awareness and acceptance for our children.

**Type of award:** One time Scholarship

**Intended use:** This scholarship is for a full-time student at a vocational, 2-year, 4-year or graduate institution.

### **Eligibility requirements:**

- Applicant must be a U.S. Citizen
- A current, active member in good standing of the Down Syndrome Parents Group of Western New York
- Must have a minimum of 20 registered and verified volunteer hours throughout the four years of high school at various Down Syndrome Parents Group of WNY events
- A minimum seven-semester high school GPA of at least a 85%

**Basis for selection:** Applicant must demonstrate academic achievement, character and community service

**Application requirements:** completed application with essay, verified volunteer hours, a letter of recommendation (not from relatives), and a high school transcript

**Amount of award:** \$1000.00 one-time award made payable to recipient

**Number of awards:** 2 individuals will be chosen for the award per year

**Application deadline:** May 1

**Contact:**

Down Syndrome Parents Group of WNY, Inc.

547 Englewood Avenue

Kenmore, New York 14223

Phone: 716-832-9334

Email: [dspgwny@gmail.com](mailto:dspgwny@gmail.com)

Website: [www.dspgwny.org](http://www.dspgwny.org)

(Application: Google doc)

Name

Address

Gender

Date of birth

High school

High school counselor name and phone number

GPA / class rank:

DSPG WNY Membership information:

Members include: (list family members):

College attending:

Intended major:

Work Experience:

Community Service:

List DSPG volunteer experiences & hours

Applicants must write an essay that is no more than 500 words on this topic:

**Essay Topic:** How have I changed the mindset about Down syndrome in my community?

Explain how the time you have spent volunteering for the DSPG over the years has changed your perspective and attitude on children with disabilities. Include specific examples of how you have openly discussed and educated people about individuals with Down syndrome and how you feel you have made a difference in creating awareness and acceptance of Down syndrome in our community.