February 27, 2019

Hello,

I am writing to recommend Olivia Steeley for your scholarship. I got to know Olivia as the leader of a club I sponsor at Hempfield Area High School, United Spartans. I was so impressed by Olivia’s accomplishments and admirable qualities that I nominated her for the Tribune Review 2018 Outstanding Young Citizen Award, which she won, while also being chosen as a recipient for this year’s award as well! This is a student that I could write a book about to recommend! She is a tremendous, caring, talented, and intelligent person. She will make the most of any opportunity given to her.

I will first address Olivia’s participation in United Spartans. The club was formed to foster kindness in the school, community, and world. Olivia has been a member since her freshman year and quickly moved into leadership roles. She has been a dynamic president for the past two years, as well as being the Vice President for the years before. She leads by example, superb organizational skills, hard work, and infectious enthusiasm. She demonstrates a truly open and caring personality to all. Her efforts involve and positively affect everyone in the school; from our special needs students, to our administration. She is reliable and generous. She always steps up to assure that things get done and done well. The club has grown both in membership and projects under her leadership. Olivia has guided the club in many activities including fund drives for the local food bank and CASA, Read Across America event for local children, Kindness Weeks, and activity fairs to welcome freshman. Our school is a better place because of the promotion of kindness led by the United Spartans under Olivia’s leadership. She continues her leadership by willingly mentoring the younger members before she graduates this year.

I did not have the opportunity to have Olivia for class, but her academic record speaks for itself with a 4.0 GPA. She obviously brings commitment and dedication to her academic endeavors, even as she participates in a myriad of other activities. She challenges herself with honors and A.P. classes. Science, particularly chemistry, is her favorite subject. I feel confident that she will succeed in any pursuit which she chooses. Olivia exhibits a high degree of responsibility and works very well with others.

Olivia plans to major in chemical engineering with a possible minor in Spanish on a pre-medical track. She would like to obtain a master’s degree in biomedical engineering, and she aspires to attend medical school. Her career goals include becoming a chemical engineer, a biomedical engineer, and a physician. After completing her education, she would like to travel to third world countries and incorporate her engineering and medical experience to better develop and aid the medically underserved. This career goal reflects Olivia’s priorities of using her many talents and her powerful work ethic to help others.

Olivia maintains her academic excellence while juggling many other activities in school and outside of school. It’s quite a list: Science National Honor Society, School Musical, National Honor Society, Cultural Experience Club, Interact Club, French Club, American Sign Language Club, Hempfield Enrichment Program, STEM Literacy Program, Peer Tutoring, Varsity Girls Soccer, Varsity Cheerleading, School Campus Tour Guide, and Pep Rally Committee. The diversity of her activities represents the range of her talents and the depth of her caring for others. She holds many leadership positions within the school such as the musical Dance Captain, STEM Communication Director, Chair of the Pep Rally Committee, Project 18 Voter Registration Director, as well as being the President of United Spartans. Olivia accepts responsibilities and takes them seriously. She contributes to her community through volunteer work. She volunteered for over 300 hours of Community Service with You’ve Got A Friend Day, Westmoreland County Food Bank, Animal Friends of Westmoreland, March for Parks and Salvation Army. Outside of school, Olivia’s activities include the completion of the Lake Erie School of Osteopathic Medicine Medical Academy of Science and Health, being a Member of the Westinghouse Honors Institute, being a member University of Dayton Women in Engineering Program, playing flute and piano, participating in her church’s youth group, and maintaining certification in CPR/First Aid/AED. Olivia approaches her goals with a determined attitude. She shows initiative and strong leadership skills. She is hard-working, self-motivated, focused, pleasant, and cooperative. She manages her time skillfully to participate meaningfully and successfully in the varied activities described above. Her positive attitude, combined with her intelligence and abilities, will ensure success in her chosen endeavors. Even with all of her other activities, Olivia has worked at a variety of jobs including being a product consultant at Sephora and a lifeguard at the YMCA and Youngwood Park and Pool.

Olivia is well-rounded with many interests. She loves animals, and volunteers at the animal shelter. She made the news when she rescued a dog that they witnessed someone abandon on the side of the road. Olivia loves nature, hiking, camping, boating, and going on adventures. She also enjoys watching and participating in sports. She stretches herself towards new accomplishments. She recently took a computer class, and she thinks it’s fun to create websites and games on her own.

Along with her caring personality, what sets Olivia apart is her superb ability to balance school, work, activities, and fun. She has met the huge challenge of time management to achieve everything described above. She pushes herself to do more, help more, be more. She acknowledges that her life is at times stressful, but she is gratified by helping others and being a part of so many great things.

I enthusiastically recommend Olivia for this scholarship. She is an individual with a strong drive, many talents, and a wonderful, friendly, caring personality. I have confidence that she will succeed personally and make the most of any opportunities which come her way. If you require more information, you may call me at 724-837-0809 or e-mail me at kucherers@hasdpa.net.

Sincerely,

Sarah G. Kucherer