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Jennifer Novich

1371 Low Grade Road

Harwick, PA 15049

412-841-9932

jnovich2405@gmail.com

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Rachel Halapchuk. I have had the distinct honor of knowing Rachel for nine years and have always been impressed by her hard work, dedication and determination.

Rachel is a responsible and motivated student who is more mature than most students her age. Her outgoing personality allows her to get along and interact with peers and adults in a variety of settings. In addition, Rachel's creativity, sense of humor and strong communication skills are advantages in any work or social setting. She has proven that she is able to balance her schoolwork, extracurricular activities and community service projects with ease, more so than most teenagers. Aside from being a stellar student and athlete, Rachel goes out of her way to volunteer her time. Rachel is a young lady of high moral character, whose empathy and kindness towards others is unparalleled.

Ever since Rachel was a child, she has had the desire to help others. As she got older, she joined organizations that focused on community service activities, such as the Girl Scouts and the YMCA. Rachel completed numerous service projects as a member of these groups, but it wasn't until she learned about Beverly's Birthdays that her passion for volunteering truly kicked in. Beverly's Birthdays is a non-profit organization that provides birthday cheer for children experiencing homelessness and families in need throughout the Pittsburgh area. Rachel was moved by their story and committed herself to helping what she considered a worthy cause.

Over the last few years, Rachel has devoted a great deal of her time and energy to helping Beverly's Birthdays make a difference for children in her area. For her birthdays, Rachel would ask friends and family members to donate money and gift cards instead of buying gifts for her. This act then led Rachel to other projects and events that would benefit Beverly's Birthdays. Over the past few years, she has organized and promoted a pancake breakfast fundraiser, a toy drive, a book drive, a collection of personal hygiene supplies and a collection of cake ingredients. Rachel bakes cupcakes and makes treat bags for birthday parties held throughout the year. In addition, she attends many of these parties as a volunteer. Rachel has also helped out at fundraising events to benefit Beverly's Birthdays including a golf tournament, a cornhole tournament and The Pittsburgh Marathon. Furthermore, Rachel attends countless community and school events to spread awareness about homelessness in our area. As a representative of Beverly's Birthdays, she sets up informational tables, talks to community members and collects donations.

Although Rachel has earned recognition for her community service achievements, she does not volunteer to win awards. She is passionate about helping others and giving back to her community. As a part of Beverly's Birthdays, Rachel has made a positive impact in the lives of homeless children and families in our area. It has been my pleasure to know such an outstanding young lady as Rachel Halapchuk. I believe that she embodies the qualities of a true humanitarian and is deserving of a scholarship for higher learning. If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me at jnovich2405@gmail.com or 412-841-9932.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Novich

Special Education Teacher/Transition Coordinator

President, Allegheny Valley Education Association (AVEA)