

Katerina Alder Application Essay

When I learned about your foundation, I signed up for gym membership in May 2015. And since then I was working out, swimming, and , of course, practicing some snorkeling. The transformation is absolutely fantastic: I feel and look better, I found healing that was much needed after divorce, and I believe in myself.

Having searched for grants to help me realize this adventure that I unfortunately cannot afford, I found Flyin Ryan Hawk Foundation. As a single mother of two, I was touched by Ryan's story and excited that you might make my dream come true; making a significant impact on my present and future. We are a family of three: Amelia, my 5 year old daughter who was born with Down's Syndrome, Constantine, my 18 year old son who is a freshman at the University of Oklahoma, and myself.

I guess I've always been a nonconformist who loves exploring new things and pushing the limits of my physical abilities. Now I work out regularly because I want to live a healthy life and my favorite exercise routines are jogging, yoga, and working out at the gym. I love many kinds of sports, but swimming has always been my biggest passion. I like to joke and say if I believed in reincarnation, I was probably a fish in my previous life. Swimming makes me happy, calms my spirit, and provides a wonderful workout. I love it, simply love it! It is my dream to see the ocean and swim/snorkel with turtles. Unfortunately, as much as I have tried to save, working towards this goal financially has not been very successful. There are many urgent needs that always seem to take over: Amelia's medical and school expenses, Constantine's college fees and payments, medication and help for my elderly mother, who lives alone in Belarus, and so on and so forth. That is why I am asking for your assistance and hope you will consider my request.

I think I am great candidate to receive this scholarship for a number of reasons:

- A. As a high school teacher, I want to show my students that it is great to dream because dreams do come true providing you are passionate about something and have enough determination to pursue your dream.
- B. I have never seen the ocean or went snorkeling with turtles, and it has been my dream for a while to see the beauty of Hawaii islands . This adventure is my dream and passion that keeps me happier daily and will definitely make me infinitely overjoyed once realized; and as a result I will be better and more productive member of my community and family.
- C. I will keep training and challenging myself physically for this adventure and strengthen my stamina to become the best I can be.
- D. I will remember and honor Ryan in pursuing my adventure.

I am asking you to help me open a door to a new world!