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Personal Essay

Always find the good in the change, even if it's hard. That's one of my life mottos. These past few years have been hard for me and my family. We have been dealing with injuries, financial struggles, and family issues. Both this recent winter and the winter before I have injured my knee in some way from a ski accident. Doctor bills have been a lot especially since we have been dealing with financial struggle. My brother goes to Killington Mountain School year round for ski racing. My dad basically pays his whole tuition which is not easy. It also doesn't help that I was struggling with my living situation with my mother. To help me personally my dad and step mom did and are still doing expensive things to help me to be happy. Since I am not living with my mom I recently had to move school and make new friends. I didn't struggle with making friends because I am pretty social but, it was still hard leaving the friends I had to make all new friends.

My step mom has been my backbone through everything I have been through. I look up to her every day of my life. She pushes me to do what my heart wants. She helps me succeed in school with mental support and always being there for me if I need any help. My step mom will always be someone I look up too. She pushes me to work hard for what I want. She has taught me a lot about how to put others before yourself. Being selfish is not the way she raised me. I was always taught to never take anything for granted, put others needs before yours and work for what you want in live because you aren't going to get anywhere without hard work and determination.

School has always been a place that I try my hardest. As much as I would love to be a professional athlete for a career that cannot be my only plan. Good grades are what I strive for. I'm that kid that loses their mind when they have a grade less than an 85 or even an A for that matter. School is a very important part of my life.

I was taught how to ski when I was about two years old. Ever since I remember I was always one who wanted to be the first down the hill, to be like the "big kids." I was never on the podium until a few seasons ago. I dreamt of standing up on that top step, of being the best out there. About 2 seasons ago I was finally figuring it all out, beginning to podium. I was always pushing myself to work harder and harder. I believe that this past season was my best season. Even though I was injured and I missed 2 races I definitely believe that the physical therapy I did helped my strength tremendously. My greatest accomplishment in ski racing was going to Can-Ams as part of the Eastern US team. This was one of my proudest moments. In the upcoming ski season I hope to be stronger and faster than I was this season. My goals in the upcoming season are to work on my technique, over coming my fears, and only being worried about beating me and my goals.

Skiing has always been my getaway place, somewhere that anything other then what is on the snow doesn't matter. Ski racing is not cheap and I feel that I should help my parents with something. I have always been someone who put others before myself. I enjoy seeing others happy and stress free so even if I can help my parent the littlest bit it will make me feel like I did help. This scholarship would help pay for camps to take an extra step in my skiing career, my races, equipment and travel fees. This money

may not seem that it is really going to a good cause but, this scholarship would help my family out so very much. I would be beyond grateful to receive anything as a scholarship.