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To Flyin Ryan Hawks Foundation,

I have a previous athlete that is applying for your scholarship. I read the history of the foundation and Ryan's Core Principles and they are a perfect match with her spirit. Maddie is a genuine ambassador for Ryan's core principles.

I have been her ski coach and mentor since she was 14 years old. Her will to live and passion to do good are a few of her best characteristics. Maddie's will to be the best alpine ski racer took a tremendous amount of work and desire. She recognized this at a young age. When we trained, she would stay on the hill after dark to keep practicing. She knew she must do this to achieve her goals. She was always training with intensity, focus, and determination to be the best.

This is how she approached every day. This girl always has a smile on her face which in turn made everyone else smile; it was infectious. Maddie did achieve her alpine ski racing goals when she graduated from high school: becoming the captain of her college race team and now traveling all over the globe to ski-mountaineer.

She went on to college to pursue her career but never lost sight for her desire for adventure. After college graduation, she went off to adventure the world. With her love of skiing as a motivation, she moved to Portland, OR to be near Mount Hood: the only summer skiing destination in the US. She would visit our summer ski training camps that we hold at Mount Hood every summer. She would introduce herself and eat dinner with our group the morning before her volcano ascent. Surely enough, Maddy was hiking up to 11,000 feet with her skis strapped on her back by herself at 3:00 am the next morning. She would then ski 3,000 vertical feet down to our training course from the summit: surprising us by 10:00 AM.

From there she set her sights on Alaska where she lived on a glacier and climbed to the top of all her ski runs. Alpine ski racing demands the athlete to be self-sufficient and organized it teaches you so many life skills at such a young age: travel, planning, perseverance and it instills a willingness to help at the individual level. Often you are on your own in the ski racing community. Maddie consistently writes to me how appreciative she is of ski racing and our organization: always commenting on how it gave her all of those life skill sets. Maddie began by supporting her adventure and career through waitressing and bartending. Now she is a guide, avalanche instructor, and professional ski patroller. She lives places where she can climb and ski year round. She has planned next year to travel to Austria for the International Snow Science Workshop to pursue her passion for the snow. Please support Maddie on her current adventures through the AMGA as she pursues guiding and avalanche education.