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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to recommend Adam Messineo as a worthy candidate for the Flyin Ryan Adventure Scholarship. Having mentored Adam during his time as a Snowboard Instructor at Big Sky Resort, I can attest to this exceptional character, unwavering dedication, and profound passion for exploration. Adam was always willing to step out of his comfort zone and learn more as instructor. Even though he was hired as a snowboard instructor, he trained and became certified as an Alpine Ski Instructor so that he could help teach kid's ski lessons when business levels were high. He had a knack for working with kids and above average talent for freestyle, so he became certified as a Children's Specialist level 2 and a Freestyle Specialist as well. None of these were required certifications for his job, but he put in the extra time and effort to better himself as a teacher. When not teaching, Adam would seek out myself and other instructors for training to further hone his craft and pursue more certifications and skills as an instructor. He would also take new instructors under his wing, showing them the mountain, sharing tips, and encouraging them to ride new lines at the Resort.

Adam's commitment to his goals is remarkable. He has demonstrated his passion for outdoor exploration and adventure through his extensive experience in the backcountry. Adam sent me his GPS data for last year and he spent an impressive 362 hours in the backcountry, covering 473 miles 103,760 feet of elevation gain. He even walks his dogs by taking them ski touring! These statistics reflect not only his love for adventure, but also his determination to push boundaries and explore new horizons.

One of Adam's current aspirations is to embark on a ski traverse of the Wind River Mountains, accompanied by his girlfriend Betsey, who is an adaptive athlete. Their goal is not only to accomplish this challenging feat but also to make history by enabling Betsey to become the first adaptive athlete to complete the traverse. Adam's dedication to supporting and empowering Betsey on this journey is admirable and inspiring, highlighting his compassionate nature and commitment to inclusivity in outdoor exploration.

The recent rise in expenses associated with outdoor sports presents challenges to people like Adam Messineo who are passionate about the outdoors but face financial constraints. Adam's commitment

to caring for his partner Betsey has further limited his ability to engage in paid work in the mountains. While Adam prioritizes supporting Betsey and ensuring her well-being, this dedication has unavoidably sidelined his own opportunities to work, learn, and grow within the outdoor sports community. A scholarship like yours may be the determining factor that means they get to chase this dream and make it a reality.

I wholeheartedly endorse Adam Messineo for the Flyin Ryan Scholarship and believe that he will make the most of this opportunity and continue spreading the legacy of Ryan Hawks. Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information regarding Adam's qualifications or character. I am confident that he will make a positive impact and continue to embody the spirit of adventure and perseverance that the Flyin Ryan Hawks Foundation stands for.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mary Gandy", written in a cursive style.

Mary Gandy