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To the Flyin Ryan Hawks Foundation Adventure Scholarship Committee,

I am writing to recommend Brenda Findley for your Adventure Scholarship. I coach Brenda both individually at Momentum Indoor Climbing in Houston and as part of the U.S. Paraclimbing National Team. Over the past year, I've had the opportunity to work closely with her and observe the way she approaches challenges, learning, and community.

Brenda came to climbing a little over a year ago with previous experience as a para-athlete in hand cycling. What stood out immediately was her willingness to put herself in unfamiliar situations and commit to the work required to improve. Climbing is a sport with a steep learning curve, but she tackled it with consistency and level-headed determination. Within six months, she secured a seventh place finish at Para-National Team Trials and a place on the U.S. National Development Team - a result that speaks to her discipline more than anything else.

One thing I appreciate about Brenda is that she adds to the environment around her. She is an active part of our adaptive climbing community in Houston, not because it's expected, but because she genuinely wants to contribute. She helps newer athletes get comfortable in the gym, shares knowledge freely, and shows up reliably. Her presence makes the community stronger and more welcoming.

Financial limitations have restricted her ability to take part in opportunities she has earned — including international competitions and major adaptive events such as Adaptive Climbers Fest. These opportunities would support her development as an athlete and within the community. Assistance from this scholarship would open doors she has already worked hard to reach, allowing her to build on the progress she's made this past year.

Brenda is steady, committed, and thoughtful in the way she pursues her goals. I'm confident she would make good use of the support and continue to invest in the communities she's part of. I recommend her without hesitation.

Thank you for your consideration. I'm happy to provide additional information if needed.

Respectfully,

Samantha R. Brown

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