Planned Giving

As life’s circumstances change, so do insurance policies related to your financial planning. You can have the satisfaction of helping McKinley High School, its teachers and students in the future by gifting an insurance policy that’s no longer needed. If a donor transfers a life insurance policy to the McKinley High School Foundation, the gift is tax-deductible for gift tax purposes. If the donor pays subsequent premiums due on the policy, those additional premium payments constitute additional gifts that would also qualify for the gift tax charitable deduction.

In addition for the first time, IRA owners can give a portion of their retirement savings directly to charity without first counting it as income and pay income tax. In 2006 & 2007, holders of traditional and Roth IRAs who are at least 70 1/2-years-old can make direct charitable transfers up to $100,000 per year.

For more information, please contact the McKinley High School Foundation at (808) 536-3832 or send in the short form below.

Name (Please Print):

Address:

Mail to: McKinley High School Foundation
1039 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Class of 1977

We are extremely grateful to all of the alumni who hold their reunions and so very generously donate their surplus funds to the Foundation. It is because there are so many of you out there who have taken up the idea of giving back to your alma mater that our Scholarship Program is so successful. Recently the Class of 1977 held their reunion. They held a raffle and donated the proceeds to the Foundation. We thank Amy Monk who was the mastermind behind the raffle and donation. And we thank the entire Class of ‘77 for this generous gesture. Thank you to every class who has so graciously and generously supported the Scholarship Program. Including the Class of 2009, they sponsored a scholarship for the Class of 2010. A huge Mahalo to all of you!!

Bruce Nakaoka (75)
McKinley High School Foundation
July 16, 2010 - December 3, 2011

Class of ’31
George Donald Gedge
In memory of Michio Oyama & Teruo Sasaki

Class of ’35
Lillian (Mot) Ako
In memory of Husband Dennis James Lee
Verna Sue Lee

Class of ’36
Marjorie Ann (Hoo) Miller

Class of ’37
Alice T. (Tom) Lum

Class of ’38
Herbert H.S. Foo

Class of ’39
Wah Chiu Chang
In memory of Bernard K.S. Leong & Dr. Albert Tsuda
Richard Y. Kanno
Murty (Min Muns) Lee
Masayoshi Nakamura
Glen Nakasone

Class of ’40
Haruyuki Kamemoto

Class of ’42
Isamu Funjyo
Kazu (Watanabe) Granich

Class of ’43
Carol (Furuike) Berk
Annie Tom Chang
In memory of Bernard K.S. Leong & Dr. Albert Tsuda
Laura (Mook) Foo
Norman Hashisaka
Wakao Kawada
In memory of Yosho Inouye
Class of ’46
Catherine (Yopi) Morishige
Mitsuji Sakamoto
Seiko Tokuda

Class of ’44
Wakao Kawada
In memory of Yosho Inouye
Class of ’47
Bert Arakawa

Betty (Tagawa) Harimoto
Walter Harimoto
Kiyoji Takenishi
William Toyofuku
May S. (Anami) Uyeda
In memory of Larry Nolan Anami
Class of ’49
Shuk Fujii Yuen

Class of ’46
Fred Kamemoto
Helen (Ikenaga) Shigemura
In memory of Richard Shigemura

Class of ’47
Albert Fukuda

In memory of Gladys (Tagawa) Fukuda

Class of ’48
Henry Kodama
In memory of James Molo

Class of ’49
Calvin V.L. Lyu
Ruth (Kam) Wong
Robert Y. Yonesaki

Class of ’49
David Hirai
In memory of Daniel Ho Class of ’49
Ellen (Pet) Fukuda

Class of ’50
John T. Inouye
In memory of brother Robert Inouye
Class of ’49
Calvin V.L. Lyu
Ruth (Kam) Wong
Robert Y. Yonesaki

Class of ’50
Donald Harada
In memory of Bruce Shigeki Hamada
Class of ’45 & Hiram “Bomber” Sasaki
Class of ’48
Mildred Miyasato
Doris (Suzuki) Ojiri
Yoshinori Ojiri

Class of ’51
June Akiguchi
In memory of Mildred (Kano) Makaii
Class of ’50 & June (Okabe) Yamaki Class of ’51
Franklin Mishima

Louise (Patros) Okuma
William Okuma
Thomas Uedo

Class of ’53
Mamoru (Ching) Luay
Albert Morinaka
Aileen (Fujitani) Okamoto

Class of ’54
Til Kwong Chun
Jannie Iwai
Robert Iwai
Class of 1954 Scholarship
Bert Morakawa
Ethel (Yoda) Mukai
Benjamin Shimokawa

Class of ’55
Helen (Morichika) Fujimoto
George Funouchi
In memory of Linda “The Songbird” Dula Cruz
Nancy (Mama) Hamabata
John T. Inouye
In memory of brother Robert Inouye
Class of ’49
Calvin V.L. Lyu
Ruth (Kam) Wong
Robert Y. Yonesaki

Class of ’56
Janes (Sueku) Fujikawa
Joy (Tanaka) Fujitani
George Masaki
In memory of Samson Tatsuguchi
Class of ’55

Class of ’57
John K. Almaraz
In memory of Edward Almaraz
Class of ’57
Harold K. Asato
Joyce (Shimada) Asato
Calvin Namihira
Dennis Toyama

Class of ’58
Charlie Honda
In memory of Roy Honda
Class of ’56 and Roy Surita
Class of ’58
Gary N. Kino
Lois (Tomokoa) Miyahiko
Myrna (Okamura) Nip

Class of ’59
June Kaya
In memory of Faith (Morinaka) Sumida

Class of ’60
Bert Arakawa

Class of ’62
Darlene Ullala Kaisi Berman
In memory of Mrs. Josephine "ikua Kaisi
Class of ’20
Karen (Yasui) Chang
Carole (Yee) Hiayama
Roy Hiayama
Norman Kino
Philip Muramoto

Class of ’63
Verne Pan
Dennis Pang
In memory of Renadi Ushina and Myles Matsuura
Class of ’62
Carole (Shimizu) Onouye
In memory of Ethel S. Shimizu, my mother
Kenneth Takushi
Frances (Kaneshiro) Yamamoto
Rodney Yamamoto

Class of ’71
Patricia E. Carvalho
Diane (Hayak) Hollinger
In memory of Edward Almaraz
Class of ’57
Harold K. Asato
Joyce (Shimada) Asato
Calvin Namihira
Dennis Toyama

Class of ’74
Jeanette (Lee) Kawamura
Class of ’57 & Carole (Shimizu) Onouye
In memory of Ethel S. Shimizu, my mother
Kenneth Takushi

Class of ’75
Aline La Loe Kainamikou
In memory of brother Albert Kazuyoshi Tsuji
Class of ’76
Ben Nakao
John & Jeanne Oshiro

Class of ’81
Sandy Ma
In memory of Helen and Lydia Segawa

Class of ’82
Su Sen Chang Tran

Class of ’84
Alain Chun

Class of ’94
Minoru Yamashita
Class of ’94 Scholarship
Ho’ala Greery
Class of ’94 Scholarship
Richard Hoke
Class of ’94 Scholarship
Sheila Kim
Class of ’94 Scholarship
Yvette (Nozaki) Matsumoto
Class of ’94 Scholarship
Class of ’95
Nho Hoan Quach

Class of ’05
Sandy Ma

Class of ’07
Connie Ma

Class of ’08
Irene Ma
Tom Shek

Friends of MHS
Rosa Caratizalolo
Michael Chun
Marian (Ige) Hayashida
In memory of father Iuchi Ige
Class of ’29
Franklin Hayashida
In memory of Father-in-law Iuchi Ige
Class of ’29
Gannett Foundation
In conjunction with Bart Asato
Hung Wu & Elizabeth Lai
Ching Foundation
Junior Achievement of Hawaii
Macy’s
In conjunction with Richard & Betty Kikuyama
Microsoft
Dale Nakayama
In memory of Tokie Sakata
Class of ’39
Annie Shimabukuro
Gary & Jodi Yoshioka
McKinley High School Robotics Team
for the Professionalism of Osa Tui
And team members Jessica And Michelle, to all the Great students & Advisors At McKinley.
As part of the scholarship application process the applicants were asked to write about a personal challenge. The following excerpts are a brief synopsis of what they wrote about. We hope that it helps give an insight on part of the reason they were selected.

Scholarship Recipients

Christopher Escalante

Jessica says that she has always been exceptionally shy, so much so that she was ridiculed and bullied by her peers. When her family moved to another state, she struggled to learn English and immersed herself in her school work. She says that her biggest challenge in English was not her accent; the withdrawal of her peers was the real threat to her social skills. She was capable of fluently expressing her thoughts in her native language; her peers, however, would interrupt her with their own stories. As a result, it was difficult for her to find her voice and express herself, even when she wanted to. She was forced to work with a tutor and then with her teachers. She found that her classmates were much younger than her. Although embarrassed because of this she persevered and can now swim – he says he still loves learning but "the withdrawn me is no more".

Angela Marie Fernandez

Angela describes herself as being "unable," to quote her "When I say "unable," I do not mean that I was responsible, but that I was nonchalant. My friends can tell". Although there was a friend or family member needing a helping hand, Angela's biggest challenge was learning to rely on them when she was in need. After a very dear aunt passed away, an aunt that she considered her second mother, did learn that she was really the one that was supporting her.SLG. She learned that she can give support and can't learn to accept support from others.

Annie Doo

Being shy and as Annie puts it, socially awkward, her life changing event happened her sophomore year. A camping excursion on the North Shore at Camp Erdman, with her Honors World History Class to help the class prepare for an upcoming project ended up being the turning point of her life. Her teacher Mr. Nakamura, emphasized the importance of being "reliable", "teamwork", "communication, dedication and having the courage to face your fear". Annie states that in the span of two class she got close to people learned to trust in people and felt herself breaking out of her bubble she had kept herself in - she became more open and endearing toward others. 

Ana De Jesus

Ana De Jesus states that when she was in the third grade her parents switched occupations from restaurant cook to self-employed retail, selling clothes at the Swap Meet. This was life changing for her. She had to learn how to deal with customers. With no one at home to take care of the children, Ana became a bright and pleasant butterfly. Ana is attending Kettering University where she is majoring in Mechanical Engineering. She is the recipient of the Alexander & Baldwin, Inc. Robert J. Pfeiffer Community Scholarship in the amount of $4,000.

Anita says that her biggest challenge was learning to accept the responsibility of looking after her younger brother when her parents were away. When she was a student at Kaiser High School, she took care of her brother, who was away at college, she took her words to heart. Her sister said "He's your brother's only sister. Remember to set a good example for him. I know it's hard for you, but don't try to make it any harder for mom and dad. You can do it. Remember that you're a role model for him. Set an example for your younger brother. How can you expect him to make the right choices in life if he sees you doing the wrong things?". Ania never took this advice to heart. She believed that today she is a better person and is grateful her parents gave her the opportunity to discover that by improving others' lives. 

Angie is attending Seattle University where she is majoring in Biology/Pre-Medicine. She is the recipient of a Hung W& Elizabeth Lau Ching Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $2,500.

Dr. Jenny Lin

Jenny says that during the summer of her junior year she volunteered for the Therapeutic Recreation Team at Kaiaka High School where she worked with special need students. She spent a lot of time helping the children to open up. She states that "she empathized with me for the times when I was really sad and doubting themselves - helpless creatures by appearance". She says that she made sure that her openness will never hinder her in such a way again. Jenny is attending the University of Hawaii at Hilo where she is majoring in Management. She is the recipient of the Schrifer Family Scholarship Honoring Senator Patsy Young in the amount of $1,500.

Daniel writes that his inspiration to succeed had much to do with his two older siblings, both were star athletes and vaudeville artists of their respective classes. I think we all would find challenging trying to live up to these standards – and Daniel was no different. Daniel was a star student. He was a competitor in the lead line. He was working as a Scholarship Committee member. He was working as a Scholarship Committee member. His older brother was a winner. He wrote about a lifelong challenge. This science fair gave him the chance to decide that he would pursue a career in biology and one day become a physician. He was the only Asian American in the American Lung Association and at the Queen's Medical Center. He had the unique opportunity to work with individuals who want to quit smoking. Hearing their stories for wanting to quit was inspiring and sobering. He says that his challenge is to learn to make volunteering a habit that he knows will help him in the future.

Christopher Escalante

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Li Xi Loo

Li Xi says that when she was in the third grade her parents switched occupations from restaurant cook to self-employed retail, selling clothes at the Swap Meet. This was life changing for her. She had to learn how to deal with customers. With no one at home to take care of the children, Ana became a bright and pleasant butterfly. Li Xi is attending Kettering University where she is majoring in Mechanical Engineering. She is the recipient of the Alexander & Baldwin, Inc. Robert J. Pfeiffer Community Scholarship in the amount of $4,000.

Tina Nguyen

Tina states that when she was in the third grade her parents switched occupations from restaurant cook to self-employed retail, selling clothes at the Swap Meet. This was life changing for her. She had to learn how to deal with customers. With no one at home to take care of the children, Ana became a bright and pleasant butterfly. Li Xi is attending Kettering University where she is majoring in Mechanical Engineering. She is the recipient of the Alexander & Baldwin, Inc. Robert J. Pfeiffer Community Scholarship in the amount of $4,000.

Tina Nguyen

Tina writes that as a child growing up, she did not have access to cable television and the internet - but he was intrigued by learning about television and the internet. She quickly learned what to ask questions with, like: what does the sky look like at night? - this challenged the sense that she was not there for the first time. She began to be more open and endearing on social skills. She learned that hard work does pay off and that with dedication one can attain their goals.

Tina Nguyen

Tina Nguyen states that her biggest challenge was learning to accept the responsibility of looking after her younger brother when her parents were away. When she was a student at Kaiser High School, she took care of her brother, who was away at college, she took her words to heart. Her sister said "He's your brother's only sister. Remember to set a good example for him. I know it's hard for you, but don't try to make it any harder for mom and dad. You can do it. Remember that you're a role model for him. Set an example for your younger brother. How can you expect him to make the right choices in life if he sees you doing the wrong things?". Ania never took this advice to heart. She believes that today she is a better person and is grateful her parents gave her the opportunity to discover that by improving others' lives.

Tina describes her as being "unlucky," to quote her "When I say "unlucky," I do not mean that I was responsible, but that I was nonchalant. My friends can tell". Although there was a friend or family member needing a helping hand, Angela's biggest challenge was learning to rely on them when she was in need. After a very dear aunt passed away, an aunt that she considered her second mother, did learn that she was really the one that was supporting her. SLG. She learned that she can give support and can't learn to accept support from others.

Annie Doo

Annie Doo states that her biggest challenge was learning to communicate with people who do not speak English. She said: "I didn't know how to explain my relationship with Chinese school, she did not speak Cantonese on a daily basis and it was difficult. When her sisters went on to college she had to become more open and endearing to others. She now feels that her efforts have brought her and her parents closer together and her father even helped her out a career path. Annie is attending Seattle University where she is majoring in Biology/Pre-Medicine. She is the recipient of a Hung W& Elizabeth Lau Ching Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $2,500.

Angela Marie Fernandez

Angela describes herself as being "unlucky," to quote her "When I say "unlucky," I do not mean that I was responsible, but that I was nonchalant. My friends can tell". Although there was a friend or family member needing a helping hand, Angela's biggest challenge was learning to rely on them when she was in need. After a very dear aunt passed away, an aunt that she considered her second mother, did learn that she was really the one that was supporting her. SLG. She learned that she can give support and can't learn to accept support from others.

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Seon Joo Lee

Seon Joo is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where her major is Pharmacy. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship Honoring Senator Patsy Young in the amount of $2,000.

Takamori Shirotani

Takamori Shirotani states that his biggest challenge was overcoming her fear of water and learning to swim when many of his fellow classmates were much more skilled. Although embarrassed because of this he persevered and can now swim - he says he still dislikes swimming, but has made progress and for that he is proud.

Takamori Shirotani

Takamori Shirotani is a student athlete with a busy school and academic schedule. He is a hard worker, he enjoys working hard and he works efficiently. He says that his challenge is to learn to make volunteering a habit that he knows will help him in the future.

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Geneva came to Hawaii with her father in 2001, not speaking English and not having any friends made her wish that she could go back to Vietnam. When she was seriously accused of stealing something that another student had stolen and put in her locker, she was forced to stand up for herself and fight for her rights. Today she speaks fluent English and has made many friends and taken pride in knowing that the one person she can depend on is herself.

Geneva is attending the University of Washington where her major is Psychology. She is the recipient of a Carole Kai Charities Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

As a child Yenmy was painfully shy. So shy that she frustrated her teachers because she whispered her answers. In Middle school, with the aid of a teacher who said she needed to come out of her shell, she found her voice. Later at McKinley she gained confidence with good grades and learned teamwork, communication and responsibility when she joined the robotics team. Because her grades had improved, she and her brother had a lot of free time on their hands and at one point as Precious put it "palling around". In her junior year she realized that the only one who could make her life worthwhile was herself. She buckled down, studied and is proof that one is on the right track.

Precious is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where her major is Psychology. She is the recipient of a Carole Kai Charities Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

In 2001 Precious and her sister moved from the Philippines to Hawaii. They had lived with their grandparents until then. Their father left the Philippines years before, his mother to work in Hawaii and his father became a seaman. Longing to live closer to them, Precious was elated to be in 7th grade. Her mother had passed away in the Philippines. She and her sister had a lot of free time on their hands and at one point as Precious put it "palling around". In her junior year she realized that the only one who could make her life worthwhile was herself. She buckled down, studied and is proof that one is on the right track.

Precious is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where her major is Psychology. She is the recipient of a Carole Kai Charities Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Charles says that "Life is full of challenges" and that this great nation is built on challenges. His big challenge was being raised by Chinese parents who did not speak very much English. As a child he was quiet and a difficult time making friends. He worked long hours to make what his "social bubble" and he has finally made that transition - now he wants to show his parents that he did not waste their time coming to Hawaii to raise a family. Charles is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where he is majoring in Architecture. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship Honoring Senator Dan K. Inouye in the amount of $1,000.

Charles Su

From a very young child Jordan knew that he wanted to become a music teacher. Music is his passion, he remembers going to the Tower records and asking his mom to let him play the guitar and she would always buy records for him such as The Beatles such as "Hey Jude" and "Strawberry Fields Forever". Convincing his parents that he really wanted to teach music has been his big challenge. His parents really wanted him to make a different career choice, but Jordan says music is his choice and he will follow his dreams to become an educator in music.

Jordan comes from a long line of musicians and was exposed to music at a young age. He says that his dad was a real "rock star" and his mom was incredibly supportive. His family loved the Beatles and other music from the 60s. His parents were very supportive and encouraged him to pursue his passion. Jordan is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where his major is Music Education. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship Honoring Senator Dan K. Inouye in the amount of $1,000.

From a very young child Jordan knew that he wanted to become a music teacher. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship Honoring Senator Dan K. Inouye in the amount of $1,000.

Jennifer states that her inability to speak in class was a huge challenge for her. Afraid of giving a wrong answer she was reluctant to add her dilemma. In Middle School her self confidence was further diminished by being bullied. When she began her freshman year at McKinley she came to the realization that she needed to change and she worked very hard at breaking out of her "social bubble". She learned to believe in herself by having a tutor and working very hard at it. Jennifer states that her biggest challenge was to change her mindset and believe in herself. Jennifer is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where her major is Psychology. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship Honoring Senator Dan K. Inouye in the amount of $1,000.

Jennifer To

Zane says that his biggest challenge is that he avoids situations and cannot make decisions. While he recognizes that some may find this to be an advantage, he says that it is a problem. Being the youngest child in the family he says that he has a lot to learn. Zane is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where his major is Computer Science. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount $500.

Zane Wu

Immigrating to Hawaii in 2008, Jair Er devoted much of her time in learning to speak and write English. Being fluent in English consumed her and in time while her speaking improved her other grades went down. Realizing that she needed to concentrate on her studies she entered the Talent Manager Program. She credits this to the McKinley High School program and the guidance of a mentor. Jair Er is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where her major is Psychology. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount $500.

Jair Er Chen

Kurtis writes that his four years at McKinley were wonderful! Something that many can relate to! His biggest challenge was to overcome any fear he had of being a part of any school work and extracurricular activities. He absolutely loved baseball, and was thrilled to be on McKinley’s baseball team - his dilemma was he was also keen on being in the band. He managed to do both, but one day there was a band practice and a baseball game on the same day at the same time. His coach and band director left the decision of what he should do in the end. He ended up playing part of the game and left early to play in the concert. After the concert he went back to his friend and gave them his most heartfelt apology. His teacher was very understanding and gave him the opportunity to continue with both his passion. With his father’s lecture imbedded in his mind, he was motivated to do well. He is so pleased with his grades and know that she will go on to give his parents a better life. Kurtis is attending Boise State University where his major is Computer Science. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $500.
Scholarship Recipients

Jenny Hong

Jenny says that she faces challenges nearly every day - some big, some small. However, she states that her biggest challenge is keeping a positive attitude. She even went as far as making sure that she kept a happy facial expression. Jenny felt that acting cheerful cheered up others around her. As William James, a famous psychologist in the 19th and 20th century theorized "expressions not only communicate emotion, they also amplify and regulate it.

Jenny is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where her major is Accounting and Finance. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $500.

Raymond Fung

Raymond writes that his biggest challenge was breaking a childhood habit. His parents and siblings all had it, to no avail to break his habit but it only made it worse. They even bribed him with money. He recognized that breaking an old habit is something that must come from within him and with a lot of self determination, he broke it after he learned the cause and effect.

Thankful that he found the courage to work out his problem on his own, he knows that he can accomplish anything he desires. Raymond is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where his major is Accounting and Finance. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $500.

Franco Campono

When Frances was eight years old, her younger brother and her mother immigrated to Hawaii from the Philippines. Since her mother was a single parent and worked the graveyard shift, Frances and her brother got themselves ready for school. She did not go to school and had to work very hard to get good grades. By the time she graduated at McKinley she had become an all around person who was capable of working out her own problems. She is proud of the fact that she recently passed her Naturalization test and will soon become a U.S. citizen.

Frances is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she is majoring in Physical Therapy. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $500.

Andrew Nguyen

Andrew had a speech impediment that was a major burden on him in elementary school and he was able to conquer it when he was in Middle school and enrolled in a drama class which forced him to do public speaking. He was extremely proud that he had vocal freedom. Then one afternoon when he was coming home from tennis practice, he was nagged. After that even his speech impediment returned and he continues to work on overcoming it. It has gotten much better and he is confident that he will one day again have "vocal freedom".

Andrew is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where his major is Nursing. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $500.

Connie Liang

Connie says that her one big challenge to date has been learning how to walk again. During a judo class she was paired with a boy older than her for warmthups, and was flipped the wrong way. She felt wrong and was heartbroken. She had broken three bones in her left foot. Being on crutches for the next few weeks made getting around difficult. However, it was when the cast came off and she still relied on her crutches that really caused her stress. Since it hurt to put full weight on her foot, she continued to use it and her doctor told her she needed to "sock it up" and learn to walk without them. At first she thought her family was being cruel not allowing her to use her crutches, but in the end she realized it was the only way she would walk normally again.

Connie is attending Northern Arizona University where she is majoring in Forensics. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $500.

Trais Watanabe

Trais states that his having his family learn to work together through some very trying times has been his biggest challenge. He says some of his youth with an aunt and uncle while his parents worked out some personal issues. Today he is so grateful that they were able to heal as a family and he is appreciative for both his mother and father. He now feels that he will be able to accomplish anything that he attempts.

Trais is attending Graceland University where his major is History. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $500.

Yi Jing Huang

Yi Jing writes that her biggest challenge has been learning the English Language. She and her family came to Hawaii just a few years ago. While she has a deep desire to learn it is hindered because she must first translate what she reads. Keeping good grades and being able to communicate fluently in English is something that she takes great pride in. She says that it has made her a stronger person and fuels her desire to succeed.

Yi Jing is attending Kapiolani Community College where she is a Liberal Arts major. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Karen Chen

Karen’s mother has been the one constant-stable person in her life. As a single parent she worked hard to keep everything well together and will was there for all of the important times in Karen and her brother lives. Karen says that there were times when she felt like she was so unfair that her father was not there with them, but she began to realize that she looked at her mother, who showed them love and support, and not as Karen.

Karen is attending Kapiolani Community College where she is majoring in Business. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Li Ein Cheng

Li Ein’s family immigrated to Hawaii three years ago. Her biggest challenge was learning the English language while trying to make friends in her new school. She had had trouble with homework and she decided to ask her teachers how she could communicate to communicate with classmates to improve her English. She now knows that hard work truly pays off. She is improving in English and she looks forward to the future and her potential to be a teacher.

Li Ein is attending Kapiolani Community College where her major is Education. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Eunice Vallejo

When Eunice’s family moved to Hawaii from the Philippines four years ago, she was not prepared for the deep sadness she felt. Leaving her homeland was very traumatic for her. She only wanted to go back home. She writes that she cried day and night for the first few years when she moved here. Within the first year she knew she was in elementary school it was difficult because she didn’t understand many of the issues that companies were writing or calling for. As she got older she got easier to decipher the information and she began to realize that it has actually given her an insight on what kinds of responsibilities she will need as an adult. She is now grateful to her parents for this exposure.

Eunice is attending Kapiolani Community College where she is majoring in Dental Hygiene. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $1,000.

Shannon Okamura

When her family immigrated to Hawaii from the Philippines Lorjene could not have known how cruel life could be. When she was in Elementary & Middle school she was bullied by her peers. The relentless bullying never stopped. They would come to her home; they would steal her personal things and say they were theirs. They would prank call her at home and she became a target of internet bully. She states that going through relational aggression was agonizing. It affected her life that she did not feel she belonged. Now she looks back and says in some strange way it has made her a stronger person.

She is attending Kapiolani Community College where she is majoring in Culinary Arts. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $750.

Jasmine Uehara

Jasmine says that she faces challenges nearly every day - some big, some small. However, she states that her biggest challenge is keeping a positive attitude. She even went as far as making sure that she kept a happy facial expression. Jasmin felt that acting cheerful cheered up others around her.

Jasmine is attending Kapiolani Community College where she is majoring in Business. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Devon Yee

Devon reads that his biggest challenge was breaking a childhood habit. His parents and siblings all had it, to no avail to break his habit but it only made it worse. They even bribed him with money. He recognized that breaking an old habit is something that must come from within him and with a lot of self determination, he broke it after he learned the cause and effect.

Thankful that he found the courage to work out his problem on his own, he knows that he can accomplish anything he desires. Devon is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where his major is Accounting and Finance. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $500.
Raymart says that when he stepped foot on the campus of McKinley he felt like he was in big trouble. In elementary and middle school he had a group of friends to socialize with – and he also had the support of his parents. When he got to high school that seemed huge and he would wonder if he would get to have a class on that would be as exciting. Because of these affects, Raymart was taken off of the medication. He has learned to ease the pain by thinking happy thoughts and by doing breathing and meditation exercises.

Raymart is attending Kapiolani Community College where he is majoring in Culinary Arts. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $750.

Monica Li

Monica is attending Honolulu Community College where her major is Elementary Education. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $750.

Raymart Cortez

Once very shy and reserved Lan says that when she was in the fifth grade she ran for student body president. A fourth grade student won the election and it devastated her. Although there were tears she picked herself up and vowed to try again. In the seventh grade and at a new school she ran for student body president and won! She couldn’t believe it and was a life changing event for her. As president she needed to speak in front of the school introducing teachers and guest speakers. She is so glad that she persevered and that value lesson that she will carry her whole life.

Lan Tran

Lan is attending Kapiolani Community College where she is majoring in Culinary Arts. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $750.

Hong Dong Ma

Hong Dong’s family immigrated to Hawaii from China in 2006. He writes that his biggest challenge was learning the English language. He adds that this is a different way of life. Going to middle school is often difficult for English speaking students, but for someone who did not understand English it was overwhelming. He would go home after school feeling depressed and didn’t think he could go back. But go back he did and now he looks back at those days and he feels he can accomplish as much more because of this experience.

Hong Dong is attending Kapiolani Community College where his major is Computer Game Programming/Business. He is the recipient of the Class of 1994 Scholarship in the amount of $500.

Patrick Wu

Patrick writes that his own insecurities and lack of self-confidence was his biggest challenge. In middle school this was magnified because he tried to be someone he believed he was. This came about because he wanted to be like everyone else. When his grades suffered because he didn’t concentrate on school work instead of friends he made the change to effort to be himself. He credits his family with helping him on track for success.

Patrick is attending Kapiolani Community College where he is majoring in Computer Science. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $500.

Breyon Okuno

Breyon says that he had so many responsibilities that when he got sick he ignored his symptoms because he just had too much going on. He had two very important rehabs for the 2009 commencement ceremony band and a Major Algebra 2 final test and a presentation for his English class. Only when he had a fever of 103 degrees and his father insisted he stay home and get medical help did he realize he really didn’t need. He used to spend time with his family and friends. When she got her back statement one month and saw that she spent hundreds of dollars frivolously she knew the school of her finances had come. She is much more diligent and careful about spending money, but still finds it is a challenge.

Breyon is attending Kapiolani Community College where his major is Radiological. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $500.

Vivien De Guzman

As a sophomore Vivien’s set of friends turned a group of people to hangout with. This group consisted of high school dropouts and as he put it “if that wasn’t bad enough, they were drug.” Not wanting to be left out she went along with the group. Skipping school and being less truthful with her parents weighed on her conscience. When she got caught for truancy she was so ashamed she was running down the wrong path. She vowed that she would not associate with these types of people, which turned out easier than she thought because her original friends dropped out of school. Once they left she started anew and her grades truly improved. This experience taught her that she can control her destiny by making the right choices.

Vivien is attending Kapiolani Community College where her major is Liberal Arts. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $750.

Brittany Romana-Smith

Brittany writes that her personal challenge is learning to live with a skin disorder called Eczema. While she realizes that some people find this hard, it is something she understands. If she were any other way she would have never known how to control it very poorly. It can be very painful and the medication that helps to control it can have adverse affects. Because of these affects, Brittany was taken off of the medication. She has learned to ease the pain by thinking happy thoughts and by doing breathing and meditation exercises.

Brittany is attending Kapiolani Community College where she is majoring in Creative Arts and Medicine. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $750.

Patricia Wu

Patricia says that when he stepped foot on the campus of McKinley he felt like he was in big trouble. In elementary and middle school he had a group of friends to socialize with – and he also had the support of his parents. When he got to high school that seemed huge and he would wonder if he would get to have a class on that would be as exciting. Because of these affects, Patricia was taken off of the medication. She has learned to ease the pain by thinking happy thoughts and by doing breathing and meditation exercises.

Patricia is attending Kapiolani Community College where he is majoring in Radiology. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $500.

Kristin Kimura

Kristin knows that her biggest challenge is one that she needs to work at. She says that laziness and distraction attribute to her sub standard grades. She knows she is capable of so much more. When she entered McKinley she knew that she would have to do some serious soul searching and set her sights to get good grades. Attribute it to maturity but she the new proud to see that she put her mind to something she can finish it successfully. She overcome her challenge by learning what was stopping her from getting good grades.

Kristin is attending Kapiolani Community College where her major is Nursing. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $500.

Steven Maddela

Steven says that life has ups and downs. Challenges and obstacles are always in the way of achieving something. Shenzy was his obstacle. In middle school he made the conscience effort to open up to get more. He always had good grades so he begun to help his classmates when they asked for it. By helping others he was able to work on his social skills and now feels comfortable in many situations. He even goes out of his way to meet new people. Playing sports in high school played a part in his new found communication skills.

Steven is attending Honolulu Community College where he is majoring in Electrical Engineering. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $500.

Jason Liang

Jason says that he had a bit of a challenge while he was in middle school. When he got bad grades he would have to go to his parents and tell them the bad news. He would then be told to do better or he would be grounded. He says that this was the most helpful thing that ever happened to him. He realized that he would have to do well to impress his parents and he didn’t want to be grounded. He says this taught him the importance of teamwork and not to be afraid to ask questions when needed.

Jason is attending Kapiolani Community College where he has not yet decided on a major. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $500.

Easter Villamor

Easter writes that her challenge has been accepting her role as an only child. They were older when they had Easter so she feels like she was a big baby. She was born at the Philippines and has strong cultural ties with their home. This coupled with the age gap sometimes causes friction. Easter has learned to accept the fact that they always think differently but she loves her parents and wants to be successful and make them proud of her.

Easter is attending Kapiolani Community College where her major is Nursing. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $500.