

News Release

For Immediate Release: November 21, 2000

Independence High School Senior Selected for KRON "Beating the Odds" Scholarship

Sarah Ligda, an Independence Senior, was recently selected to receive a KRON "Beating the Odds" scholarship.

"Beating the Odds" is a special series of news stories by anchorwoman **Wendy Tokuda** on News Center 4. It features stories about youngsters who overcome tremendous obstacles. The stories are tied to a scholarship fund and viewers send tax deductible donations to help send these students to college. Students submit their stories along with letters of support from staff.

Sarah submitted her story describing her challenges. When Sarah was nine and in the fourth grade she had a major brain aneurysm that paralyzed the right side of her body and she was struck with aphasia. She was in a coma for 9 days and in Stanford Children's Hospital for about 6 weeks. Her mother was told that she would never walk nor talk again. After relearning to walk, speak and write with her left hand she was placed in special education classes. She has worked very hard to prove to the world that her physical disabilities do not mean that she is mentally disabled. She is currently a senior in honors English, AP Art History, AP Calculus and AP Computer Science. Sarah plans to become a doctor of psychiatry. In addition to her physical challenges, Sarah has had to overcome a number of family issues.

Sarah's counselor, **Nora Mazotti**, is one of her biggest fans and advocates. She thinks that Sarah is an incredible student with unbelievable determination and strength. "**Sarah** has had to overcome devastating situations in her life and she's done it on her own. Very few people are aware of her challenges because she always projects a positive attitude. She is truly deserving of this recognition and the scholarship."

Sarah's story will be aired on News Center 4 later in the year.

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