

To Scholarship Committee,

My name is Caron Jance and I am the mother of a young boy named Tommy. I am a very busy mom and I own a residential real estate business; there are times, especially during the summer, when I need a trustworthy babysitter for my son. I have relied on Darby Gallagher for the last 4 years to be the role model of choice for the responsibility that comes with taking care of a child. I met Darby through her mother who I've been friends with for many years when I needed someone to watch my son. What I found out though is that Darby is much more than a babysitter. Whenever she comes to the house she brings games from home and movies that she enjoyed as a child. She always seems genuinely excited to spend time with my son, and whenever my husband and I are going out, Tommy is sure to ask if Darby is coming over. Darby has never let us down; when we have been late coming home, she is always understanding and honestly just doing her homework after putting our son to bed. We live in a neighborhood where there are a lot of stores and shops nearby and we always trust Darby to take our son out and bring him back without having to worry. I remember one specific instance of her responsibility when we came home and Darby had written down a couple of really funny things Tommy had said, knowing that as new parents we'd want to know everything we might have missed while we were out. We also have trusted her in the past to take him to beach days - scary for a parent, but with Darby's background as a junior lifeguard we always felt safe and knew Darby was always vigilant watching Tommy both in and out of the water. Darby has always shown a responsibility and maturity beyond her years. We are so grateful to have had such a great person to hang out with and interact with our son.