

11/18/2015

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Penny Stark. I am the parent of Malio Favalora, Marshfield High School Student and basketball member.

Malio has had some trouble with his classes last spring and during the summer. I would label my son as being of an introvert personality. He has always tried to work things through within himself instead of reaching out to others for assistance. He internalizes things and then worries in silence without reaching out to others.

Malio has gone through hard times within the last 18 months. His younger sister unexpectedly became pregnant, she had complications, his nephew was on IV antibiotics at birth along with his sister, and his nephew currently has been diagnosed with plagiocephaly (a condition characterized by an asymmetrical distortion of the skull) and has to wear a helmet. He has also gone through the separation of myself and his "step-father". All of which not only creates an emotional and mental hardship, this has also created a financial hardship. Malio has felt that he needed to focus on the care of all of us (sister, nephew, mom) until he felt so behind on his school that he was internally suffocating.

Malio finally reached out for help. He let me know about the trouble he was having with his studies and that he felt that he was not providing enough support to the household. This broke my heart and I reached out for assistance from Doug Miles, school counselor and coach. Doug has been very supportive and helped me get Malio back on track.

Malio has a desire in him to play basketball. It is what has driven him to reach out for help. He needs to have something to look forward to, to strive for and make the right choices and do the right things. I am asking from the depth of my heart to continue to allow my son to have something to strive for. To have that release that he needs from home. There is a plan in place for him. He is on top of his classes and is on the road to graduate at the end of this school year as he is a senior.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this hardship and allow us to share our story. My son is very private and this has been difficult for him. I am proud that he is my son and will continue to guide him and assure him that by doing the right things and making the right choices you can rise above adversity.

Sincerely,



Penny Stark