

11/18/2015

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Malio Favalora. I am a senior at Marshfield High School. I am currently on track to graduate in the spring of 2016.

Last year was a very difficult year for me. I had a lot of problems at home that I had a hard time dealing with. The problems at home were a lot more important to me than my school work was. Last year, my younger sister, Janet, got pregnant at a very young age. I have always been very close to my sister and have always felt like I was her protector at home and at school. She is a very small person and when she got pregnant, my family was told by doctors that it was very possible that something would happen to the baby and Janet would have to decide between her and the baby. I know that Janet would not have chosen to take the life of her baby. This was very scary to me and I thought a lot about what this meant to me and my family. I had a hard time focusing at school and at home. My grades were very bad.

After a very hard pregnancy my nephew was born. After the baby was born we were in the process of moving. We had boxes all over the place and we had nothing set up. It was a crazy time. My mom and sister lived down stairs with my nephew and I lived upstairs. The major life change was a lot to take in and it was very frustrating. I was constantly worried about my nephew and my sister who was having a lot of issues with the baby's father.

After about 4 months with my nephew it was obvious that he wasn't healthy. He had a flat spot on his head that shifted his ears. My mom and sister had to go every two weeks to Portland and Springfield for doctor appointments. They had to put a helmet on him that he will have to wear from anywhere from 6 months to a year.

In addition to these problems, I had a car accident when my sister was 5 months pregnant. I was driving to basketball practice on December 16<sup>th</sup>. It was a dark evening. A lady that was wearing all black stepped off the sidewalk and crossed in front of me 15 feet from the crosswalk. She was drunk. I hit her with my car and she went up on my hood and almost went completely through my windshield. It was a very scary situation. I couldn't sleep at night because I kept seeing the lady rolling over my car. I had nightmares and had to miss a week of school.

This all happened at the end of the first semester and all of the second semester. I failed science, math, and Spanish. I tried to make it up during the summer, but I couldn't get help from the summer teacher and my family's doctor's appointments made it tough to get to the college for the class. I finally reached out for help part way through the summer. My counselor helped me get going on my classes. With his help we finished 4 summer classes. I didn't finish the last one until the end of September because it took the online company a long time to send me the final. It was supposed to be at the school 2 days after I ordered it and it didn't arrive for 2 or 3 weeks. I finished the final and am now on track to graduate.

I am asking for a hardship to allow me to participate in basketball. Basketball and my teammates have been my only escape from reality. Please allow me to play.

Sincerely,



Malio Favalora