



IBEW 2213 NEWSBEAT

June 29th 2018

IN SOLIDARITY



SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT

This week in the spotlight is IBEW2213 Scholarship recipient, Claire Fisher. Claire is the daughter of Business Manager Barb Carson and from the Central Area. Read on to learn about her. Also enjoy her essay in which she shares how the union affected her life!

Claire Anna Fisher -Claire graduated from Maine-Endwell HS in 2017. She played tennis, softball volleyball and was in Ski Club. She played the viola in Honors Orchestra and was a member of the National Honor Society. In Fall 2018 she will be starting her Sophomore year at St John Fisher College in Rochester, NY. She is majoring in Nursing and made the deans list. Her goal is to become a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). She is also in the SJFC Irish Dance Club.

"To write about my relationship with the Union I have to tell you about my mother, Barbara Carson. I was on the picket line before I took my first breath. My mother was pregnant for me when she was on strike against Bell Atlantic in August of 1998. A couple of years later, she pushed me in a stroller on the line, and a few years after that, my brother came along and joined us. Unity and solidarity are words we take very seriously in my family. I have had a front row seat to watch my mother go from a shop steward up through the ranks to her current position as the President/Business Manager of IBEW Local 2213. This is a huge accomplishment for a woman in an incredibly male dominated world. Much of that was done as a single parent, until she married my stepfather who is a member of CWA Local 1111. They both work for Verizon in Binghamton New York.

April 12, 2016 will forever be etched in my memory. My mother and I were at the ballet celebrating my 17th birthday when she had to step out and take an important call. She was told that at 6 am the next morning IBEW and CWA would be calling a strike against Verizon. Somehow my mom kept her composure and didn't let the enormity of that news ruin my night. Everything changed the morning of April 13. For 7 weeks my parents walked the picket line fighting the outsourcing of jobs and corporate greed. My brother and I were actively involved. We carried signs, handed out leaflets and yelled chants. On May 1, 2016 Verizon cut the strikers benefits. For the first time, my mother didn't have health insurance for us. We've been through strikes before, but this was different. My mom, she's tough, but I knew she was worried. She put her fears aside and told us it would be ok. She told our family and her union family that we would all survive this together. "How many times in life do you actually walk the talk" she asked them. "This is bigger than all of us, we are fighting for the entire middle class" she said. No one in her areas crossed the picket lines. They stayed united and in the end, they were victorious. It was an experience I'll never forget.

I am so incredibly proud of my mother's strength and dedication. She has shown me what standing up for what you believe in really means. She has worked hard to give my brother and I a comfortable life, she was able to do this because she belongs to a Union.

In pursuing a nursing career I hope to someday carry my own union card. I'm proud to have come from a strong union background and be raised by a strong union woman."