



IBEW 2213 NEWSBEAT

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IN SOLIDARITY



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UNIVERSITY



Scholarship Spotlight

My name is Amaya George, I am 17 years old. I will be graduating from Troy High School in June and I plan on attending Western New England University in the fall. While there, I will be majoring in Forensic Science and plan on continuing my softball career.

My mother works for Verizon and is a member of IBEW Local 2213. Being a member of a union in our country today symbolizes strength, power, unity, pride, integrity, and family. A union is an organization of workers who join together to protect and justify their rights and interests. Labor unions seek not only to ensure justice in the workplace, but jus-

stice for our nation as a whole. Standing together as one, union members can make changes to the economy and our world.

Growing up, I knew my mother belonged to a union, but it wasn't until the Spring of 2016 when I truly realized how important being part of a union is. My mother spent about 7 weeks on strike during this time period. Throughout the time when my mother was on strike, I can remember discussions she had with my father about certain cuts we may need to make for our summer vacation and other lavish expenses. With only my father bringing in money, we couldn't quite afford or manage other certain luxuries. I also remember my mothers discussion with my father about our family's medical and dental coverage. During this time, I recall finally being able to get the invisalign I've been wanting. The strike, however, caused my mother to cancel the appointment and prolong me getting the invisalign. I was upset and annoyed at the time, but looking back, I know my mother was doing the right thing. Having a parent in the union has taught me many important values and lessons in life. My mother has always been head strong and determined with her goals. Becoming a union member has shaped her into the person she is today. This has ultimately affected how my sisters and I have developed as well. Knowing my mother has the power and aspiration to change how she is being treated and looked upon, sets a great example to us three girls. I have always looked up to my mother and strive to be as self willed as she is. I know she has a great deal of pride in her work and gives it her all day to day. Labor unions are an important part in our history. The past strikes and rallies have impacted our nation and our labor unions today. Knowing my mother can make a difference and someday change the way our world is, gives me hope and ambitions in my own life. Unions affect families in all different ways and forms. Although there were hard and rough times for my family, my mother never gave up and never let us know the true struggle she had to go through. I am proud to say my mother belongs to a union and has in some small way improved the lives of unionized workers.



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