



# IBEW 2213 NEWSBEAT

JULY 5TH 2019

IN SOLIDARITY



## Scholarship Spotlight

My name is Sam Cilano and I am 18 years old. I live in Hamburg, New York and I have attended the Hamburg Public school system my entire school life. I will be graduating from Hamburg High School in June 2019.

My parents have been members of IBEW 2213 for more than 20 years. My father Michael since 1996 and my mother Jennifer since 1998.

The union has allowed me to have a secure life. Growing up as a child, my parents always made sure I had almost everything I wanted. When I was younger, I had all of the toys I wanted, bikes, Xbox's and Ipads, laptops, and baseball equipment. Also, my parents gave me an allowance that allowed me to do things like go to the movies, bowling, and out for pizza with my friends. Remembering back, most of my friends did not have what I had.

I have also been on many family vacations with my family such as the Dominican Republic, Florida Keys, Bahamas, Puerto Rico, and Disney World. I remember some of my friends saying they had never been on a family vacation at all or like the places I had gone to.

All of the things I have mentioned, or the things I have had and have is because of what the union has provided my parents.

From the beginning my parents have received wage increases, cost of living raises, and affordable medical expenses. Because of those benefits, it has allowed me to enjoy the things I had growing up.

Because the union negotiated medical benefits, it has allowed me to have good dental care and medical care. I realize how the union has negotiated these benefits, whereas some of my family members do not have good medical or dental coverage and they work full time good jobs.

The union has also negotiated a fantastic vacation policy for its members. My parents started out with 2 weeks of vacation each and are now up to 4 weeks of vacation each. With all of the vacation time per year my parents have received throughout the years, it allowed me to be home most of the summer vacations from school and was able to avoid going to a daycare or summer camp. We were able to spend family time together. I know that my friend's parents and family members maybe receive 1-2 weeks of vacation per year and are working in non union jobs.

The union has provided financial security for my family. It is hard to find employment that is a union job. I know that the union will fight and stand up and stand together both IBEW and CWA for its member's rights. I have marched with my parents when they were on strike and attended rallies to keep their benefits the union fought so hard to protect. Neither of my parents were working or bringing home a paycheck, but they told me this is what we have to do and it is important to stand up for what the union members are fighting for.

My entire life I have belonged to a union family. I thank the union for giving my family and I the financial stability, medical benefits, vacations and time off, and know that the union will fight for what it believes in.



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