



# IBEW 2213 NEWSBEAT

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IN SOLIDARITY



## SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT

**Zachory DeCarolis is the son of Lou DeCarolis & April Millich. He is one of the winners from the Western Unit. Here is his winning essay!**



A union is a gathering of many people who share the same interests at heart. It is the heart and soul of employees that are lucky enough to have one and is the glue that holds the workforce together. What the union has done for my family is nothing short of incredible and it is fair to say my life would definitely be worse if not for the union at Verizon.

One of the great things the union does is that they help my parents, who both work at Verizon, fight to keep their various benefits and pay. This sadly comes at the cost of going on strike when the company fails to comply with the needs that the union is fighting to keep but the great thing is, my family felt supported and strong the whole time anytime we went on strike. I remember being a kid and standing outside holding a sign while Verizon was on strike and felt a great sense of comradery and comfort knowing that my parents' jobs and benefits were protected by the union. I myself hope to find a Union that is just as great when I join the workforce because it has shown me how great having one can be.

Additionally, the benefits that my parents have are very vital to me as I have had many injuries in my life that required medical attention and rehab..If it were not for the benefits that my parents had through Verizon that were fought for by the Union, I would not be in the same condition I am today and neither would my family's financial situation. I have broken various bones that required extensive physical therapy afterwards which include my femur, wrist, toe, and I even tore my labrum. Thankfully, I was covered under my parents and made a recovery each time. Of course, this is all thanks to the benefits they received which is all thanks to the Union.

Not only did the Union fight for the benefits that helped me recover, but they also helped me recognize my dreams for what I want to do with my life. If it were not for my parents medical benefits, my family most likely would not be able to afford to send me to physical therapy as much as they did, if at all. This would likely result in me never growing a love for the profession and I would not know what to do with my life. Due to the fact that I was able to go though, I learned how to use exercise to heal myself and am now enrolled in classes at D'Youville where I am studying to obtain a Doctorate of Physical Therapy Degree. I have the union to thank for ensuring my parents medical benefits and pay that helped me realize my dream of becoming a physical therapist and I hope to help others with the degree I get.

When looking back on my life, it is fair to say I have been very fortunate. Many of my friends' families do not have a union at their workplace and have pay cuts and/or firings often and I am so lucky to live in a household where my family can rest assured knowing there is a Union that is helping us fight to keep my parents' jobs, benefits, and pay. I would like to say thank you to the Union for all you have done and will do in the future.



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