

# **Staci Sluka Thornton Memorial Scholarship**



Staci lived a life full of energy and light. Staci cared deeply for the sanctity of life itself, whether it was human, plant, animal or ecological. She was moved by, and sought to take action against the injustices she witnessed in this country and the world, and was a firm believer in the Black Lives Matter movement and the principles of fairness and equality for all. A lifelong vegetarian and more recent vegan, she herself felt the suffering of others around the world; she insisted on only adopting pets, and would always move a bug found in the house outside unharmed. She was fascinated by plant life, with her motherly instinct carrying over to the many green friends she kept throughout the house. She believed in the crucial importance of environmental health and lamented the damage done to ecosystems from climate change, pollution and overfishing. She founded the Brielle Environmental Club at Brielle Elementary School, which brought students to Sandy Hook to plant dune grass and preserved land in the Amazon Rainforest from deforestation, amongst the achievement of raising awareness of the health of the Earth to children. She had an impact on the people around her and the world at large.

Staci had a sense of humor that a statue couldn't help but crack a smile at. Whether a celebration, somber activity or just an average day, she was always able to brighten up the room, whether it was filled with hardened adults or children, who she had a special gift of connecting with. Her greatest gift was her ability to make those around her feel seen and valued. Staci's memory will forever be honored by the legacy she has left for those that loved her; and everybody loved her!

## **Application for the Staci Thornton Memorial Scholarship**

*This \$1500.00 scholarship is open to seniors attending a 2-4 year program with a concentration in applied Mental Health services (this can include Psychology, Sociology, Biology, Neurology, Counseling, and other related fields)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (full name as it should appear on certificate)

Email \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_

College Destination? \_\_\_\_\_

Expected Major/Concentration in College \_\_\_\_\_

Submission for this \$1500.00 scholarship is BOTH a short video and an essay. See below for details.

A 3-5 minute video expressing these key ideas:

- How do you currently bring light to those around you that may need it most?
- How do you try to provide encouragement and kindness to those around you?
- Why do you want to enter the mental health field (or fields that support mental health, such as sociology/biology)?
- How will you bring awareness to the mental health issues that exist in our country today?

### **AND**

A 300-500 word essay of what you wish the scholarship providers to know about you and your commitment to better mental health for our nation, and your role in affecting change.

**All materials should be sent to Jennifer DeKenipp by May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 to the following address:**

**[shorepointfitness@gmail.com](mailto:shorepointfitness@gmail.com)**

**Subject: Staci Sluka Thornton Scholarship**