



Dear Scholarship Candidate;

We are looking forward to reviewing your application for the Donna Kaye Smith Scholarship. Below we have attempted to share with you some of what made Donna Kaye Smith so special. We look forward to reading about the person who has impacted your life in a positive way.

Donna Kaye Smith was an amazing lady. A small woman by most measures...but when Donna Kaye entered a room, she commanded attention. She was the type of person who never met a stranger. She was always armed with a smile and a laugh that you could both see and hear from a mile away. Other than her family, Donna Kaye's calling in life was to find people who were not enjoying themselves and impact them in a positive way. The fact that she dealt with Cancer for more than 30 years, impacted Donna Kaye in many ways. Life and the time to live it was very precious to her. She found it hard to allow nature and time to solve the issues that she thought she could handle on her own. She felt that any problem, no matter to whom it belonged, was for her to solve. Knowing that her time on this earth was short, she did not want to get caught up in, or mess with, drama. She just wanted to get things done so that she could have fun with those that she loved; and I can tell you, there were not many people that she did not love.

As a 19-year-old single mother of two, living on relief in a federal housing project, she realized that she had to take control of her life; so she did. She got a job and enrolled in night school to get her GED. It was a very proud day for her when she completed that course and received her diploma. It was at about this time when she began preaching to my sister and me that we could be and do anything we wanted, if we worked hard enough. Donna Kaye did not think she was a very smart person, but with some encouragement from her new husband Dick, her sister Suzie and others, she began studying for and earned her real estate license; another very proud day for her. This accomplishment was the end for all of us because she was now convinced that if she could earn her real estate license we could become anything. Her faith in people and their ability to achieve was never ending.

In August of 2005, after 30 years of dealing with cancer, which included more than 30 surgical procedures, over 200 hours under anesthesia, and numerous broken bones, (all due to the chemo therapy and the maximum amount of radiation allowed a human) Donna Kaye decided it was time to go home to God. Like everything she did, Donna Kaye made her decision and she then went with grace. Before she passed, we shared the news of this scholarship with her and this is what she had to say,

*"Tell them that no matter what difficulty they face, they can overcome it."*

The Board of Directors of the Donna K Smith Scholarship Fund is pleased to honor the spirit of Donna Kaye Smith by providing you with the opportunity to receive this Scholarship. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Warmest Wishes,

Scott A. Ralls  
President of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors:

Charles (Dick) Smith

Scott A. Ralls

Dennis Dobbins

David Parent

Dr. Ann Tobin

Andrea Ralls

Valerie Durham

Adam Shepherd

Tony Stein

Paul Durr

Dawn Ewing

Jamie Sirkin

Dave Silverstein