

## Student 8 HERO SCHOLARSHIP 2015

Student 8 and her mother grew up together as her mother became pregnant in high school with Student 8, repeating the cycle that Student 8's grandmother had also begun; becoming a pregnant teen. Despite the financial and social odds against her, Student 8 is determined to break the cycle and not become another teenage statistic. She has poured herself into school, honoring her passion for learning and her desire to help others that will eventually manifest into her goal to major in neurobiology and become a doctor.

Student 8 has overcome many obstacles in her life. She and her family were homeless for a time, lived in cars and a friend's homes. She has no relationship with her biological father or his three other children and has recently heard he might be in jail. Her mother has had other relationships and there are now three other children and a stepfather who Student 8 adores that comprise her family, but during most her childhood, Student 8 was raised in a single-parent family. Being the oldest and quite responsible, Student 8 has spent many hours watching and helping to raise her brothers and sisters, ages 3 – 12. She will be the first in her family to graduate from high school and attend college.

Remarkably Student 8 has not earned a grade lower than an "A" since her freshman year when her mom's untimely move to Las Vegas for three weeks caused Student 8 to lose credit. She has maintained a 4.0 grade point average since that time, a testament to her love of learning and her ambitious drive to succeed in school and in life. Student 8 will be attending San Diego State University next fall and intends to major in medicine.