

Groton Girl's College Dream Made Possible By Scholarship for Children of Injured Workers



Photo: Ashlyn Evans (second from left) receives her scholarship check from attorney Heidi Groff, vice president of Kids' Chance of Vermont; Ron Fox, attorney at Biggam, Fox & Skinner who represented Ashlyn's mother in her workers' compensation claim; and attorney Keith Kasper, president of Kids' Chance of Vermont.

MONTPELIER, VT – Ashlyn Evans of Groton, VT is a hard worker who dreams of opening her own beauty salon one day. She's now on her way to making it happen after being awarded a scholarship from Kids' Chance of Vermont, an organization that funds college scholarships for children of workers who are injured in Vermont.

Kids' Chance of Vermont paid \$9,125, representing the entire unmet need of Ashlyn's college education. She will be attending Michael's School of Hair Design, a Paul Mitchell Partner School in Bedford, NH, starting in September 2016. She plans to complete her cosmetology course in May 2017. Ashlyn's mom was injured at work in 2010 while working as an LNA and was not able to go back to her job. It affected the whole family and Ashlyn was faced with the difficult task of funding her education. As Ashlyn's grandmother, Joyce Evans of Passumpsic VT, put it, "The children of injured workers don't always get a fair shake." Her scholarship has given the family a welcome boost. "Getting this award from Kids' Chance means my parents don't have to worry so much financially. They were worried about how to pay for my college. They had to use a lot of their savings after my mom got hurt. Now they know I will be okay," said Ashlyn.

Ashlyn has been interested in hairstyling for many years. She practiced on her dolls and once even cut off her little sister's ringlets. In high school, a willing friend allowed Ashlyn to cut, dye, and style her hair. Ashlyn loves expressing her creativity through cutting and styling. She is nervous but excited about leaving home for the first time. After school, she plans to come back to Vermont and get experience by working in a salon. Eventually, she hopes to start her own salon where she can put her love of styling and beauty into practice.

Kids' Chance of Vermont was founded in 2014. It is run by a board of directors comprising workers' compensation professionals from the areas of law, insurance, vocational rehabilitation, and state government. It is a chapter of a national organization, Kids' Chance of America, which was founded in 1988 by a workers' compensation lawyer in the state of Georgia. Today, chapters in 26 states fund need-based scholarships for families who face financial insecurity as a result of a calamitous work-related injury. Since 1988, Kids' Chance has distributed more than \$5 million in scholarship funds to more than 2,000 recipients.

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