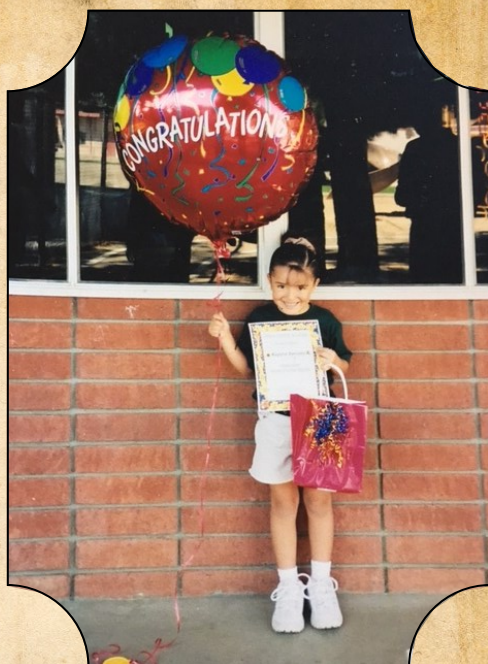


Kaylene: A Carson Scholars Story





Once upon a time, there was a young girl named Kaylene who was raised in the Antelope Valley of the western Mojave Desert in Southern California. She grew up with a loving family; grandparents, mom, dad, and her younger sister. Kaylene was born a go-getter and standout. She was motivated early in life when her pediatrician's compassion and care was so inspirational that she set an audacious goal; to become a doctor. Her family knew that she possessed the innate passion and drive needed to become a doctor and did everything they could to encourage her dream. Although Kaylene's parents did not attend college, they recognized the importance of a good education.



Kaylene was determined. She always told herself, “I don’t wait for things to happen to me, I take the initiative and make things happen. When I know what I want, I commit to it and deliver results.”

That is exactly what she did.

By ninth grade, Kaylene was enrolled in both high school and college classes. While attending community college, she was recognized by the head of the honors program. Not only did Kaylene want to succeed in school, but she wanted to succeed in helping others. At school, Kaylene served as president of Key Club where she was able to connect with others through community service activities. She was involved with an anti-bullying program, ran various charity drives, and became a mentor for incoming freshmen.



Kaylene also completed an internship where she was able to experience, firsthand, the work of Pediatric Oncologists. Her dream was further reinforced when a doctor at her internship gave her the opportunity to comfort a very sick 5 year old before surgery. It was in that moment that she recognized if she continued her education, she would not only be able to comfort patients, she will help heal them.

With a wealth of knowledge, skills, and experiences that would allow Kaylene to be successful in pre-medical school, her barrier was acquiring the means to afford college. In 2015, Kaylene met a person who would help further her courageous dream.



Ms. Karyn Jackson, a generous donor, sponsored a Carson scholarship that was awarded to Kaylene in 11th grade. Winning the Carson scholarship empowered Kaylene to apply for and win numerous other scholarships to defer the cost of college. Soon after the Carson Scholars Fund Awards Banquet, Ms. Jackson and Kaylene reconnected and Ms. Jackson quickly became Kaylene's mentor.

"Karyn is the most ambitious individual I have met and is my role model; she never ceases to inspire me. She has been a big source of my motivation and makes me even more excited in fulfilling my education so I can become a Pediatric Oncologist."

- Kaylene Zamudio



Ms. Jackson, who Kaylene now calls “Auntie Karyn,” has become a hero in the life of this budding Pediatric Oncologist in pre-med at the University of California, Berkeley. Kaylene and Ms. Jackson are now working together to send Kaylene to Peru to work with local doctors and aid those who have little to no access to proper health care services.

With sustained guidance and inspiration from Ms. Karyn Jackson, Kaylene is well on her way to accomplishing her dream and living happily ever after.



You too can make a difference in a child's future! Give the gift of an education this year and help young students of today become our inspiring leaders of tomorrow.

Carson Scholars Fund

The Carson Scholars Fund supports two initiatives: The Carson Scholars Program and The Ben Carson Reading Project.

The Carson Scholars Program awards and recognizes students who have embraced high levels of academic excellence and community service with \$1,000 college scholarships.

The Ben Carson Reading Project provides funding to schools to build and maintain Ben Carson Reading Rooms – warm, inviting rooms where children can discover the joy of independent leisure reading.



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