Joidy DiRienzo Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship was established in loving memory of a woman who lived a life defined by perseverance, kindness, and a profound love for others. She was a wife, a mother, a grandmother, and a hard worker who faced many challenges throughout her life, yet continued to show compassion and care to those around her. She found joy in reading, valued learning, and spent her working years helping others as a nurse's aide and later through factory work. While life was not always easy, she loved deeply and left a lasting impact through her strength, empathy, and humanity.

Eight years ago, she was sitting in this very room as her granddaughter received scholarships to further her education. She supported all of her 9 grandchildren equally, regardless of their varying paths. Because of her belief, encouragement, and unwavering support, her grandchildren flourished with the perspective that all things are achievable. For example, her eldest granddaughter is 2 years away from becoming a veterinarian at one of the world's top veterinary colleges, and her other granddaughters have started a successful business. Her grandsons have joined the military, gone into trades, and others are continuing their education at university of South Carolina. This scholarship is a way of carrying that belief forward - recognizing a student who embodies resilience, growth, and quiet strength, and who may one day look back and see how much being believed in mattered.

ALL Graduating Seniors at West Seneca East Senior High are eligible for a $250.00 Scholarship in honor of Joidy DiRienzo.

Application deadline is March 18th, 2027

Please email responses to: **BrianaSweeney97@gmail.com**

Please fill in the following information:

First name: _____

Last name: _____

What are your plans after high school?

☐ College
☐ Trade school
☐ Workforce
☐ Other:

If known, intended field of study or training:

_____

Do you have siblings? _____

If yes, how many? _____

Who do you currently live with?_____

Do you currently work or have significant responsibilities outside of school?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, briefly describe:_____

_____

_____

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?_____

_____

_____

What is something about you that doesn't show up on grades, awards, or resumes? _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Have you ever had to take care of someone else before you felt ready? What did that experience teach you?_____

_____

_____

_____

Describe a job, responsibility, or role that changed the way you see hard work. _____

Is there a book, story, or piece of writing that gave you comfort, perspective, or strength? Why?

Is there someone in your life who inspires you to be better?