



The Katie Jo Vaughn “Changed Lives” Memorial Scholarship

Sponsored by: Amy Pope and Mallory Lorant

Amount: \$500.00

Eligibility: Teen or Miss
Objectives and Criteria below

Everyone that met Katie Jo Vaughn, truly believed that they were her best friend. Katie just... had that “IT” factor! Both young and old, she touched more lives than most of us ever will.

Katie Jo loved so many things and did so many things so well. While she was very busy and active, she also worked hard and took so much pride in excelling in school and doing so well while pursuing all her extra-curricular activities. No matter how full her schedule was, she always figured out a way to get it done.

Katie also impacted the hearts and souls of others in a way only she could. It is the dream and desire of family and close friends that her life and memory never fade. Her arms of friendship and love were so open wide, to strangers on the street, to new friends at a pageant, to those she met in school... Katie touched lives.

A Little Bit About Katie Jo ...

Katie Jo was born April 24, 2003 in Texarkana, Texas. She was a Senior at James Bowie High School where she was a member of the James Bowie Varsity District Champion Volleyball Team, Cheerleader, 2020 Homecoming Princess, National Honor Society, FCCLA and Student Council. She also played Club Volleyball, was involved in the International Cinderella Scholarship Pageant where she was the 2018-2019 Texas State Teen Cinderella and was currently Miss Simms. She had already earned over \$67,000.00 in scholarships, was a 4.0 student and had been accepted to Ouachita Baptist University where she planned to major in Physical Therapy. Katie Jo was a ray of sunshine and always wore and shared a smile. She had friends from all over, near and far. Her love was Volleyball, Friends, Family and Sushi. Katie Jo was also a Lone Star Princess for two years and loved participating in Miss Texas

You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough. That is how Katie Jo lived. Some may say it's rare to find one that has it all, and Katie Jo was that rare exception. She was a shining light with a smile that lit up a room and a contagious laugh that you could recognize from a mile away. She used that smile, laughter, and courage that God blessed her with to touch lives by making people feel special, loved, calm, encouraged, and brave. It was common for her to pray with and encourage contestants of all ages and to crack jokes to break the ice or ease the tension. If you got stuck in the elevator with her and didn't know her, you would by the end of that short ride. She was a mentor to girls and boys and they looked up to her.

On November 8, 2020, her earthly life tragically ended, but her memory and legacy will outlive us all. Since that fateful night, it has been the goal of her friends and family to preserve her legacy and encourage others to live like Katie Jo and to epitomize strength of character, courage of conviction, and the beautiful light that Katie Jo lived each day with.

Objectives and Criteria:

The goal of this scholarship is to honor and bless a deserving young woman who:

Criteria #1 – Balance of excelling in school and managing extra-curricular activities

Has figured it out.... She knows how to balance school and a crazy schedule... however it may be, she balances and excels in school and the rest of life.... How do you do it? What tricks do you have? Give us some examples of the creative ways you have figured this out and excelled.

Criteria #2 – Did not personally know Katie Jo but impacted by her life and story

Was impacted by Katie Jo's way-too-short time on Earth but heard her story, heard of her fun ways, and knows her legacy lives on because of the amazing way she lived. This scholarship is open to all. The goal and desire is that it is awarded to someone who never, or briefly personally met Katie Jo but was so impacted by her life and legacy and their life was changed and touched by the way she lived life! How did you learn about her, how did she impact you, even though you never personally, or very briefly personally met her how did she touch your life! Let Katie Jo's love and impact live forever and never fade!

Qualified applicants, please submit an essay highlighting your qualification for these two criteria.

Awards:

There will be three finalists and a winner announced at the Visionary Celebration.