



Alexandra Rees-Benyo

Alexandra has not had an easy life. First and foremost, her living situation has been unstable and challenging. Small luxuries like rides to events and activities have not been a part of Alexandra's life, and she has had to work extra hard in participating in school events because of this obstacle.

But Alexandra has never let obstacles get in her way. She was found to have a learning disability in her early elementary years, but by working hard and participating in the Slingerland program, she went on to achieve awards for her reading ability later in her elementary years. Last year, she scored in the 93rd percentile in the reading portion of the ACT test.

Alexandra is described as a gifted artist. Her art teachers at Chugiak High School comment on her natural ability and creative way of approaching artistic projects. She has donated her painting skills to local schools' theatrical productions and was even asked to paint a mural at her place of employment. Alexandra is eager to develop her artistic abilities and is enrolled in the King Career Center's Advertising Art and Design class, where she hopes to learn skills that will benefit her pursuit of a career.

Alexandra is determined to attend college and receive an education. She has been working for two years at Garcia's Cantina (she walks to work) in order to save money to pay for school, and is prepared to take a year off between high school and college in order to save an adequate amount.

Alexandra can be very shy, but is starting to come out of her shell. She recently told a teacher that she "feels like she has only begun to get to know the world" and that one of her largest motivators is her desire to make her grandparents proud.