

Iva Russell Open Arms Scholarship Award

My name is Renee Brown. I am a single mother raising a two-year-old son, Julian who has sickle cell anemia and because of this, he is in and out of the hospital for treatment. According to his doctors, this is a life long disease and may cause complications thus the constant care and medical attention. I am totally devoted to his welfare and wellbeing and I wish that he would live a normal life in spite of his medical condition. Though home daycares are cheaper and within my budget, I started him at Sunshine Playschool when he was six months old as his needs could be better taken cared of by the more qualified and better-trained people of the playschool. The playschool is sensitive and responsive to the requirements and needs of my son.

In the past one and a half years since Julian was enrolled he has adjusted well to the learning and social environment in the playschool. I am very much satisfied with the arrangements with the playschool and in the progress in my son's pre-school education.

Keeping Julian in the playschool and to ensure his medical needs are met are my top priorities in the years to come. It is with this in mind, that I am applying for the Iva Russell Open Arms Scholarship Award for the year 2010.

I continue to struggle financially having lost my job one month before Julian was born. I found another job months after his birth although the job pays less and barely enough to cover bare essentials. I could barely make ends meet and there were times that I did not even have the money to buy diapers or wipes. But still I continue to pay for the playschool fees so I could work and support my son on my own means and resolve. I have to persevere if I am to properly take care of Julian.

With Julian secured in the playschool, I am able to hold a regular paying job with a potential for career development and increased pay in the future. The playschool does not only provide a watchful eye and learning opportunities for my son but it provides us with a stable environment for me to function as a working single mother.

I am at the moment the sole provider for my son's needs. Friends and relatives help out with clothes and some items and needed solace and support but I am determined not to seek financial help from them as they too have their own financial commitments and responsibilities.

I spend a substantial part of my income on medical bills not covered by my medical insurance. Julian needs constant medical attention so I see to it that I pay these bills because I do not want to risk the chance that he will not be admitted due to accumulation of unpaid debts at the hospital.

The Scholarship Award, which covers full tuition and activity fees for the period of one year will help me stop living from paycheck to paycheck. It would lift a great weight off my back and leave me with only the medical expenses to take care of. I could also catch up on buying the essential items I need for my son. More important his stay at the Sunshine Playschool will be ensured for one year. By the time the scholarship ends, I will be eligible for a pay raise and a possible promotion and will have the means to fully support and care for my son far more better than what I can provide for him at this time due to the circumstances that Julian and I are experiencing.

I pray that the Award body will consider Julian's case has merit and in line with the ideals of to which the Scholarship is founded. In behalf of my son, Julian I would like to take this chance to say that I appreciate it very much that there are programs such as the Iva Russell Open Arms Scholarship Award and whoever may be chosen as recipient of the Award would be receiving a wonderful, generous and meaningful gift of love for others.