

# THE MARIA PERRI CIMARUSTI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION



**A scholarship will be awarded to a senior who plans to continue their education at a post-secondary college, university, community college, trade school, or vocational / technical institute.**



**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this memorial scholarship is to honor our beloved sister and mother, Maria Perri Cimarusti, by providing financial assistance to students to help further the selected student's post-secondary education, while aligning with the honoree's values and legacy.

**AMOUNT:** The scholarship will be awarded to a deserving senior Ambridge High School graduate, and the amount will be \$5,000.

## **CRITERIA FOR SELECTION:**

- A senior student, not necessarily in need of financial assistance, but who demonstrates exceptional academic excellence and achievement (Awards & Recognition).
- Minimum GPA of 3.5 or above.
- Participation in extracurricular activities.
- Community Service is a plus.
- Kindness & compassion – a beautiful spirit with a generous heart.
- Maria had a strong Catholic faith, but religious beliefs is a personal decision. We are looking for qualities that define a good person: honesty and integrity, respect, and a person who acts consistently with strong moral principles.

## **SELECTION PROCESS:**

- All requested information must be included with the application by the deadline date.
- Members of the AHS Guidance Counselor staff, with input from the faculty, will serve on the selection committee.

## **PRESENTATION:**

- The selected recipient will be recognized at Ambridge High School's annual Academic Awards Ceremony held every year in late May.
- The scholarships will be awarded to the student but are made payable to the recipient's college, university, community college or trade/vocational/technical school.

## **BACKGROUND:**

Maria Perri was an outstanding, straight A student for all 12 years of her schooling, included her years at Ambridge High School (1974 – 1977). She never received less than an 'A' in any subject, semester or school year. She mastered the mandolin at a very young age and was a child prodigy with that instrument. She was a 1977 graduate of Ambridge High School and class co-valedictorian. She received a degree in chemistry from Penn State University in 1981 and a master's in business administration (MBA) from Rutgers University in New Jersey. Maria worked in the pharmaceutical industry for 23 years with Bristol-Myers Squibb, Integra Lifesciences and Cytogen. She was a die-hard Penn State and Pittsburgh Steelers football fan and was one of the most optimistic, fun-loving people you ever met. Unfortunately, in August 2004, Maria suffered a catastrophic brain hemorrhage. Over the course of nearly a decade, Maria made a partial recovery but remained permanently disabled and in need of long-term care. She remained bedridden until her death in December 2023. Maria was an indomitable spirit that made her unique, and provided her strength, hope, and courage to face each day with a smile. She was admired by her family and friends, because she never complained no matter what obstacles life threw her way and was a beautiful spirit with a generous heart.

## **INSPIRATIONAL STORY FROM MARIA'S PAST**

- The 2019 movie *Breakthrough* is about a boy who falls through ice and is miraculously revived by his mother's prayers. The film is based on the true story of John Smith, who was 14 when he fell through a frozen lake and was underwater for 15 minutes. Smith was pronounced dead at the hospital, but his mother prayed loudly, and he fully recovered 16 days later.
- *Miracles from Heaven* is a 2016 American Christian drama film about a young girl who survives an accident and is miraculously cured of an incurable disease. The movie is based on the true story of Christy Beam, whose daughter, Annabel, suffered a near-death experience and was later cured of pseudo-obstruction motility disorder, a rare syndrome that prevents the body from processing food.
- After watching both movies together, Maria's mom laments that although she says the rosary every day and a Novena and knows God and Jesus hears her prayers, her wishes that Maria is cured from her long-suffering stroke of 20 years have not been answered.
- In the Catholic faith, Novenas are often used to request a divine favor and is the same prayer is repeated for 9 consecutive days.
- Maria tells her mom: "*miracles are for people who need them to believe in God, but God has nothing to prove to me. I know in my heart that Jesus is my savior, and I will have everlasting life.*"



# The Maria Perri Cimarusti Memorial Scholarship

## Scholarship Form

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### Personal Information

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (Town)

Student's Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Student Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Gross Monthly Income \_\_\_\_\_ Gross Monthly Income \_\_\_\_\_

Siblings Attending College \_\_\_\_\_ Siblings at Home \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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### ACADEMIC INFORMATION (To be completed by high school guidance counselor)

Cumulative High School Grade Point Average \_\_\_\_\_ National Honor Society \_\_\_\_\_

Cumulative High School Class Rank \_\_\_\_\_ in a class of \_\_\_\_\_

SAT Scores - Verbal \_\_\_\_\_ Math \_\_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_ ACT Composite Score \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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### SECONDARY PLANS

School Planning to Attend \_\_\_\_\_

Field of Study \_\_\_\_\_

Tuition and Fees \_\_\_\_\_ Room and Board \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Book Cost \_\_\_\_\_ Total Yearly Expense \_\_\_\_\_

**REQUIREMENT CRITERIA:**

1. On a separate sheet list your school and community activities, offices held, honors received, and work.
2. A 250-500 essay to demonstrate how your life, goals, and aspirations align with and perpetuate Maria's values, passions, and achievements. Essay should be typed and double-spaced.
3. Letter of Recommendation from a teacher or coach.
4. Misinformation could lead to disqualification.
5. COMPLETED APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE GUIDANCE OFFICE BY **2:30 PM ON THE FIRST SCHOOL DAY OF MAY.**