

To whom it may concern:

My Italian heritage has been something that tied me to my great grandparents. Although we aren't the closest, a part of me still feels connected and wants to learn about Italy and where I've come from. I want to know how they met and what makes me who I am today. This has always been something I was curious about but never picked up the phone to ask. But with this opportunity I challenge myself to learn all that I can about their past. I will learn about their parents and what it was like for them to grow up and meet each other. I will strengthen my relationship with them because if I don't know I'll always have a part of me that won't feel whole.

This scholarship will not only help me with my academic goals but with my family and personal ones too. Thank you for this amazing opportunity to learn about myself.

I have one memory from my childhood of going to their house for Easter. I remember the Easter egg hunt and all the festivities. The most important part of that day was sitting with Nana and Papa talking to them about their recent trip to Italy. Nana then gave me a beautiful scrunchy that she took back with her. This is the one item I have that connects me to my Italian heritage. Well besides the amazing candies they had in a jar that I had eaten every visit.

My Italian heritage is my connection to my great grandparents. This is my time to make them proud of me.

Thank you for this opportunity,
Alexis Silva