

2012 Scholarship Recipient

daddy's little girl
scholarship foundation



When I think of the phrase, “daddy’s little girl”, I realize the literal contrast it has with my own life. My father requested that my siblings and I call him “Baba”, which is a word used all over the African continent, meaning father. So I didn’t grow up using the term daddy. Also, I don’t think the term “little girl” describes me anymore, as I’ve just begun my first year of college.

But thinking about the deeper meaning of the words, daddy’s little girl, I see how they do apply to me. To me, daddy’s little girl describes a strong young woman, who has been offered support and wisdom from anyone in her life that fills the role of the father figure. This support and wisdom could come from just her biological father, or from relatives or older friends that she encounters in life, who truly care about her well-being and success. A blessed girl would always feel as if she had someone to look towards as a father.

Before my family moved to Steubenville, my parents separated. My father moved to California, and the only contact we had was through phone, and most of our conversations were when my mother would call him for disciplinary reasons, like a teacher would call a principal. It was a difficult transition from having both parents around, to having one with you while the other existed through an electronic speaker.

Over the 5 year span with my mom, even without the constant guidance of my father, I began the process of becoming a young adult. I found self-confidence after trying to walk invisibly down the hallways at school for two years. I owe the haunted house I volunteered at for this. There, I learned how to be proud of who I am and my appearance in public, how to perform, and how to be more passionate about my desires. Now, I am able to present a mannequin I’ve dressed to one of my fashion classes at school, or belt out a tune for a show choir audition. I’m no longer afraid to dream big, because I know at some point, those dreams will become goals.

Now that my father is returning to a more accessible position in my life, it’s much easier to feel the support (even too much, sometimes). It’s almost like a time warp, between when he moved away and now. I’ve grown and changed, but he thinks that I need the same type of advice, support and guardianship that was necessary five years ago. I don’t, but I suppose that’s where “daddy’s little girl” applies.

I should be the next Daddy's Little Girl scholarship winner because alongside the wisdom and support that all of the father figures in my life have given me, I've always received words such as "make me proud", "I know you have it in you, you can do it", "you're gonna be something amazing", or my personal favorite, "don't forget kid, when you get rich, I'm in". I want to prove everyone that believes in me right, and I've taken the first step by graduating high school and enrolling in college. This scholarship money would be a great help in securing my residence on campus for the year. If I can stay on campus, there's less to worry about and more room to focus on studying. If I'm chosen to be a recipient of this award, I will be most grateful, and promise to make everyone proud.

Nandi Anyabwile