



Caroline Bielen

\$3,000 Grant in Memory of Katharine Jaruzelski

Caroline's guidance counselor describes her as "diligent, compassionate and a self-starter" -- all traits that have served her well through a rigorous high school curriculum balanced with extensive afterschool pursuits. She maintained an above 4.0 average while taking four AP courses, honors Chemistry and honors Italian. She is a member of both the National Honor Society and the Italian Honor Society.

Caroline's extracurricular activities are many and varied: she is Captain of the WHS Girls Track & Field team and a varsity sprinter along with being the Op-Ed Editor of the *Hi's Eye* and a Model UN delegate. With her twin sister, Elizabeth, she was co-president & founder of Paws for a Cause animal welfare awareness club. Outside school, she is a peer Minister at St. Helen's Church, an Ambassador-level Girl Scout and a volunteer with the Westfield United Fund and Sister Pat's Kids Camp.

Caroline's career goal of becoming a child advocacy lawyer specializing in healthcare-related issues stems from a very personal experience: as a girl she was diagnosed with scoliosis and faced the discomfort and embarrassment of wearing a hard brace. But what might have caused others to retreat instead inspired her. She researched, wrote, and self-published a book titled "I'm Bent Not Broken," about living with scoliosis. The book became the basis of her Girl Scout Gold Award project and was distributed to schools and doctors' offices to help others cope with their diagnosis.

Caroline plans to serve as a counselor at a Girl Scout day camp this summer before starting her pre-law studies at the University of Pittsburgh this fall.