

AYDEN CHRISTOPHER STATHIS AWARD

Pioneer Junior High School

Ayden Stathis was a loving, caring person who aspired to a career as a chef. He was passionate about food and culinary arts. After he passed away in November 2020, his family and friends established a scholarship foundation to honor and celebrate his vibrant life. This award provides financial support to students pursuing Ayden's dream that was cut short.

ABOUT AYDEN

Ayden was a fearless young man, and he was a doer. Whether he was helping with home renovations, refining his knife skills in the kitchen, jack-hammering rocks in the backyard, or firing up the grill, Ayden would simply smile and say, "I got this." And he did!

Ayden jumped at opportunities to try new things, from making a complicated entrée to exploring nature. He was blessed with acute situational awareness and a positive outlook. He often expressed himself through unique hair styles or brightly colored shoes. He voiced his opinions on issues, even when he knew his views weren't what others necessarily wanted to hear. He was loving and caring and thoughtful of others, especially his big brother and little sister. When friends or family came over to his house, he welcomed them with a smile and handshake or hug.

Ayden was completely in his element when he was in the kitchen. He was famous for putting his own twist on something as simple as a cup of noodles or jazzing up a more refined dish like lobster and mussels. His guacamole was unbelievably delicious—a must-have at every family get-together. If he wasn't cooking, he was critiquing the plate in front of him. But his comments were always constructive: "This is pretty good, but maybe next time add a little less pepper and it'll be perfect."

AWARD CRITERIA

The successful applicant for this award will meet the following criteria:

- Be a graduating 8th grade student currently attending Pioneer Jr. High School (Upland, CA).
- Share Ayden's love of food and the culinary arts.
- Reflect the qualities that made Ayden so special: his courage, persistence, as well as his respect, love, and care for others.

NOMINATING A STUDENT

Any faculty or staff member of Pioneer Jr. High School may nominate a student who meets the criteria listed above by:

- Completing and submitting the attached information sheet by the deadline date.
- Writing a brief letter expressing how the nominated students meet the award criteria.

A \$500 cash award(s) will be presented at the school's spring awards assembly.

Nominations are due on or before **May 15, 2023**. They can be mailed to:

Brancati Foundation
ATTN: ACS Scholarship
P.O. Box 2262
Mesilla Park, NM 88047

You also may submit your nomination by email (PDF Only) to Roberta Stathis at the following: roberta@brancatifoundation.org. An email will be sent to confirm receipt of the application.

The ACS Scholarship Committee will review the applications and make the final award(s) decision.

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Student Nomination Information Sheet

Full Student Name: _____

Nickname (goes by): _____

Age: _____

Contact information for parent(s)/legal guardian(s). This information will only be used regarding this scholarship:

First and Last Name(s)

Street Address

City

State

Zip

Email address

Nominating Teacher/Staff:

Name (printed)

Street Address

City

State

Zip

Email address

Nominating Teacher/Staff Signature

Please attach a brief letter expressing how the nominated student meets the criteria and merits this award.