



3 North Andover High students awarded Harty Scholarships

Three North Andover (MA) High School seniors who embody the spirit and heart of Matthew Harty were awarded college scholarships from MitoAction's Matthew Harty Camp & Scholarship Fund.

Matthew passed away from mitochondrial disease just a few days after his 8th birthday. Many in the North Andover community knew him personally or saw him regularly on the sidelines of his siblings' soccer games or in the stands cheering on hockey. He touched so many people in his short life.

Because of the amazing support the Harty family received from the town and the North Andover school system, Paul and Sarah Harty decided to award a scholarship to a North Andover High School student who either demonstrated a true commitment to special needs children through volunteerism or who has committed to a college program focusing on children's needs.

This year, three students were awarded scholarships: Emma Callamaro, Jack Perry, and Meghan Quint.

Emma Callamaro

Emma has been involved in the disabled community her entire life, starting with volunteering for Special Olympics and as a coach for a North Andover program designed to teach younger children with disabilities how to play soccer. But most notably, Emma is a certified professional ski instructor at Loon Mountain for New England Disabled Sports, whose mission is to change lives affected by disabilities through sports.

"Most of my time outside of my academics and athletics has gone towards promoting the many opportunities that disabled students, athletes, and citizens have available to them to feel involved and accomplished in their lives," Emma wrote in her essay.

At Loon Mountain, Emma has taught students and athletes who have a variety of illnesses, including Duchenne muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, mitochondrial disease, paralysis, autism, and Down Syndrome.

"To say that my time at Loon has changed my life and my perspective of the world is an understatement," Emma said. "New England Disabled Sports has exposed me to people that are truly inspiring. Each one of my students has demonstrated levels of determination, strength, and courage."

Emma's experiences at Loon have dictated her future goals. She is pursuing a healthcare pathway in college that will supply her with the background to make a positive impact on the

lives of those affected by disabilities. “I plan on using my degree to create a healthier, more affordable and supportive society,” Emma said.

Jack Perry

In his role as president of Best Buddies, Jack has helped people with intellectual and developmental disabilities lead better lives through authentic friendships and leadership. Jack was the driving force and founder behind two opportunities for athletes with intellectual and developmental disabilities: Wrestle’Lympics and Lax Buddies. These programs bring disabled athletes together with varsity athletes, which is life-changing for all involved.

Wrestle’Lympics “provides an opportunity for local special athletes to experience what it’s like to win a wrestling match under a spotlight in front of a roaring crowd made of 300+ supportive fans,” Jack said.

Lax Buddies allows special athletes to work with varsity lacrosse players and learn the sport.

Jack has been accepted to the kinesiology program at UMass Amherst, where he intends to pursue a degree in pediatric physical therapy.

“I have personally witnessed the effects of great PT on my brother Zane, as he was learning to walk and climb stairs,” Jack said. “I hope to be able to help children overcome their physical challenges as my career.”

Meghan Quint

Meghan has been involved with Best Buddies for four years, serving as vice president for the last two. She has assisted students at the Special Olympics at North Andover High School for two years. Additionally, she has her own buddy, “who is super charismatic and kind. I absolutely love hanging out with her, and plan to continue my involvement in the program throughout the rest of my life,” Meghan said.

She has also volunteered for the past two years at Discover Preschool. “This allows me to learn about early childhood development, which plays a key role in pediatric neurology,” she said.

Last summer, Meghan worked in the Sahin Lab at Boston Children’s Hospital as a Research Intern, completing general lab maintenance as well as assisting post-doctorates on their experiments as needed. Her work benefited patients with tuberous sclerosis and autism.

Meghan will be a biology/pre-medical major. “This will allow me to pursue my dream of becoming a pediatric neurologist,” she said.

She plans to specialize in either neuromuscular dystrophy disorders, or cerebral palsy. In addition, she hopes to work on advisory boards for lawmakers to help make improvements on laws/regulations on special education/medical plans for people with special needs.

Congratulations to the scholarship recipients!