



Martial Arts Scholarship

Background Information

Joseph Scott Middlemiss was born into this world on May 31, 2007 and was fighting for life from this very first breath. His fiery spirit and passionate desire to live every day to the fullest were ignited at the moment of birth and continued to blossom as he grew. Joseph was born with a rare **heart disease** known as **cardiomyopathy**. Moments after birth, a chest extra x-ray revealed the telltale sign of an extremely enlarged heart. Ironically, it was this enlarged heart that set him on a lifetime of medical struggles. At the same time, that BIG HEART symbolized all the love Joe was to emulate in his short lifetime.

Spreading love was something that Joseph Scott did very well. It was HIS gift that seemed to be inborn and instinctual to him. Whether it was through a simple smile that was given to a stranger in passing, an offer to help a friend who was struggling, a hug and words of encouragement extended at just the right time, a song written and presented with the hope of lifting spirits, or other numerous offers of service, Joseph continually shared his love to open the hearts of family members, friends, and strangers, alike. On September 23, 2013, Joseph, who had been medically stable and thriving at the time, passed away very suddenly and earned his angel wings.

It is now our greatest desire to carry on Joe's legacy by continuing to touch others' lives and opening hearts just as our son did with such ease and perfection. As a result, we founded **The Joseph Middlemiss Big Heart Foundation**. One key goal of the foundation is to assist children in exploring one of his passions: Martial Arts.

Joe's affinity for the martial arts started at about the same time he discovered the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. He loved everything about the show, had every action figure, costume, and play weapon you could imagine. And, he would put on shows re-enacting some of Leonardo's, Raphael's, Donatello's, or Michelangelo's moves from the most recent episode. He oftentimes made his parents a bit nervous with his jumping spin kicks that started from the couch and ended on the floor. But, he always landed on his feet, and gave his parents a big laugh.

As a result of his cardiac condition, Joseph was unable to participate in many of the organized sports that so many young boys and girls participate in every weekend. But, Joe (and his parents) were finally able to convince his cardiologist to participate in martial arts. Two weeks before his untimely passing, Joseph participated in his first and only martial arts lesson. He LOVED every second of it. He was so excited to order his gi. Unfortunately, he never had the chance to wear it. But, we are so grateful that he had the opportunity to participate in this one lesson. It was such a happy day for him!



As educators, we believe in teaching the whole child. The martial arts can boost a child's academic performance whilst transforming his/her character. Current research not only supports this but also shows how the martial arts enhance cognitive, behavioral, and social/emotional growth as well. Skills such as working in teams, communication, self-esteem, creative thinking, a calm and positive attitude, imagination, and self-discipline are developed and enhanced through the study of the martial arts.

Our son's passion for the martial arts- combined with this research- has moved us to create a martial arts scholarship in Joe's name. Our goal is to provide this opportunity so as to enhance the lives of young students, empowering them to be leaders and to help others as they interact in their schools and communities at large.



Martial Arts Scholarship

Scholarship Specifics

*The recipient of the “Joseph Middlemiss Big Heart Foundation” Martial Arts Scholarship will receive a scholarship in the amount of \$1000.00 to be used for martial arts lessons at a mutually agreeable location. Upon selection, the recipient (and family) may select a martial arts center in a convenient location within the United States. A member of our board of directors will contact the center to confirm authenticity. The payment will be made directly to the martial arts center of the recipient’s choice.

*Scholarship recipients will be acknowledged at the JMBHF 6th Annual Celebrity ScoopFest at Shaw Farm in Dracut, MA on June 4th from 4-7pm.

Qualifications

*The application is open to all students in Kindergarten through Grade 12

Application Contents:

*Completed applications should be mailed to the foundation at P.O. Box 428 Dracut, MA 01826 or emailed to kate at kmiddlemiss.jmbigheart@gmail.com. Please be sure they are emailed or postmarked by Friday May 24th.

- ✓ Application Form
- ✓ Parent/Guardian Commitment Form and Photo/Video & Media Waiver
- ✓ Essay
- ✓ Letter of Recommendation:
All students must provide a reference from an adult who is not a family member. Examples of references would be a schoolteacher, a coach, religious education teacher, martial arts teacher, or day care provider, etc.



Martial Arts Scholarship

2019 Application Form

Applicant Information:

Applicant's Name: _____ male/female (circle one)

Address: _____

Current School: _____ Current Grade: _____

School Address: _____

Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Has the applicant taken martial arts lessons before? Yes/No (circle one)

Martial arts activities the applicant is currently participating in or has participated in during the last year: _____

Parent/Guardian Information:

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Email Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Home Phone#: _____

Parent/Guardian Cell Phone #: _____



Martial Arts Scholarship

Parent/Guardian Commitment Form

I understand that attendance at scheduled lessons is very important and is a reflection of my family's commitment to my child's martial arts education. I will provide transportation for my child and will do everything in my power to ensure expected participation. Recurring missed lessons without a valid reason and/or "no-shows" may result in termination of the scholarship.

In signing this, I agree to actively support my child's martial arts development and will ensure regular attendance at lessons.

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Photo/Video & Media Waiver

I give permission for my child, _____, to have pictures or videos taken and to be highlighted in media releases to announce the scholarship recipient and to publicize his/her progress and learning as his/her lessons and experience transpire. The pictures/videos and media releases can be posted on the following (check all that apply):

- The Joseph Middlemiss "Big Heart" Foundation Website and Social Media pages
- Newspaper or magazine articles about the scholarship
- Signage or advertisements for the "Big Heart" foundation or this scholarship
- I **do NOT** consent to any of the above *(Please note: Checking this will NOT impact your child's status and standing with regard to the scholarship application review process.)*

I have read this waiver, and agree to be legally bound by its terms. Should I change my mind on this matter, I will notify the scholarship coordinator, Kate Middlemiss, in writing.

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Martial Arts Center Director Signature Date

Scholarship Coordinator Signature Date

Applicant Essay:



Martial Arts Scholarship

Please use the space below or attach as separate sheet. If the applicant is not able to complete the writing task on his/her own, he/she may dictate the ideas to an adult for recording.

In a short essay of 750 words or less, please express why you want to take martial arts lessons.

Reference/Recommendation

www.jmbigheart.org

P.O. Box 428 Dracut, MA 01826



Martial Arts Scholarship

Each applicant is asked to provide a reference/recommendation from an adult who is not a member of the applicant's immediate family.

The following is to be completed by the adult recommending this applicant:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____

Relationship to applicant: _____

How long have you know the applicant? _____

Please provide a brief summary of why the applicant would benefit from this scholarship for martial arts lessons:

Signature: _____ Date: _____