

Kasie – A Future Nurse for Appalachia

Alice Lloyd College Saved My Life!

Kasie, a junior at Alice Lloyd this year, is an amazing young woman who is determined to improve her life circumstances in spite of the hand she has been dealt.

You see, Kasie is an independent student – basically alone with no support from family. Her mother was 42 when she was born and was quickly estranged from her father. He was never a part of Kasie’s life at all – she did not even have a picture of him. In fact, Kasie first met her father at the age of 15 when she attended her older sister’s wedding. “He was nice enough,” she said.



Kasie was raised by her mother and a step-father. When she turned 18, her step-father told her to leave, that she was now on her own. Her mother did not argue with him, but it did hurt her. Kasie graduated high school and enrolled in a community college as soon as she could. Then, she got the call that her mother had breast cancer. She knew she had to go to her and help, so she left college and returned home to an unwelcome atmosphere. After surgery and treatments, her mother was in remission – for a year – then the cancer returned in her colon. She only lived about a month after that. Kasie was devastated.

Her step-father’s family moved him to another state, and she was left with nothing. Kasie soon found herself working at a small Radio Shack/True Value store and living in a cramped apartment with no car, and not enough money to survive on. She thought about taking on a second job, but she was already walking to one job and didn’t know how she could manage a second one – then a ray of hope came her way.

Kasie’s former high school counselor and his wife took her under their wings and encouraged her to apply at Alice Lloyd College. It sounded great – no out-of-pocket costs for tuition, a work-study program which would allow her to earn her own way – and a dormitory room included! They brought her to campus to apply, but the news was not good. It was May and ALC had already received so many applications for the fall semester that it was unlikely Kasie would be admitted. Downhearted, she returned home only to receive a call soon after from the ALC admissions director. A spot had just opened up and she could have it if she wanted it. Of course, she accepted! The director replied, “Welcome to the family!” What wonderful words those were to Kasie’s ears. “I just dropped down and cried,” She said.

“I am settled in now, and have been admitted into the Dual Degree in Nursing Program. That means I will get a degree from Alice Lloyd College and one from the University of Kentucky, where I will hopefully live in ALC’s Caney Cottage Residence Hall and complete the final phase of the nursing program,” Kasie said recently. “I was so impressed with the gentleness and loving kindness of my mom’s nurses during her battle with cancer, I decided that was the career I wanted to pursue. I want to help people like my mother...especially those with cancer who are uneducated, afraid, and just need someone to hold their hand.” After working a few years, Kasie plans to return to school and become a certified nurse practitioner.

Kasie is the perfect example of the type of student Alice Lloyd College is here to help. Can’t you just envision her future? A natural born leader, full of potential, with the fortitude to succeed...serving others as a nurse practitioner right here in Eastern Kentucky!