Sonya Villareal

Sonya Villareal is our third new scholarship winner for 2022. She wrote that she was an “active kid who truly loved sports” and she showed it. She played soccer since age 7, and also played basketball and field hockey. She took up running to increase her speed, running cross country and the 100 and 200 meters in track. In addition, she added “cheerleader” to her list of activities in high school!

At age ten, she began training as a soccer referee and found it not only gave her a better understanding of the rules of the game, but a chance for leadership as well as time management, patience, courage (!) wisdom and strength.

She reports that playing sports has always brought her joy – and she knew she had to keep her grades up to play. So, she has a current GPA pf 3.8 and plans to attend the University of South Carolina, Aiken – were she plans to study to be a nurse.

Sonya wants to be a nurse to make a difference in people’s lives, and she has a personal connection as she helped care for her Dad, when he was battling cancer. She wants to help others both emotionally and physically, making sure the get the health care they need while feeling save and supported.

Her coach wrote about Sonya’s character and compassion – how she went through difficult times, from dealing with the pandemic as an active teenager, to some loss of soccer confidence to – hardest yet – losing her father to cancer. He has seen her demonstrated tremendous grit, determination, passion and an intestinal fortitude beyond that of other soccer players or people her age.

Please join us in congratulating this deserving young woman – a 2022 recipient of the Gregg Garon Scholarship!

