

September 9, 2022

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Franzese and the Thomas Joseph Franzese Foundation,

Words cannot express the eternal gratitude I have for this award. I am truly honored to be the recipient.

I am a student in the Social Work program at Ramapo College and once I receive my degree I would like to help teens that struggle with substance use disorder. I am also a member of the Recovery Allies Fusion Organization at Ramapo. Through the organization I educate students, faculty, and staff about substance use disorder, recovery, and help to end the stigma that surrounds it.

I have been in recovery for over eight years now. The unresolved trauma I endured throughout my childhood eventually led me to self-medicating in high school. By the age of eighteen I started doing heroin. In 2014, I was arrested and fed up with this crippling disease. I decided to ask for help and give recovery all of my time.

With my degree, I want to be the person I needed when I was younger. I want clients to see that there is light in the darkness; that struggles breed resilience that they can utilize in their journey to recovery and everyday life.

Thank you so much for your kindness, generosity, and faith in me.

Sincerely,
Arielle Gromack