

## **Step Up For Students April 2008 Student Spotlight**



**Taylor Shover  
Indigo Christian Junior Academy  
Daytona Beach, FL**

Sixth-grader Taylor Shover is excelling at Indigo Christian Junior Academy in Daytona Beach, a school she attends on the Step Up For Students Scholarship Program. With Taylor's stellar academic status, it is hard to believe that she once struggled in school. A second chance from the scholarship program enabled her to learn in a challenging environment that could meet her needs and help her true abilities shine through.

Taylor began to have problems when she was in second grade at the public school. Her teachers would report on her disruptive behavior and her inability to complete her class work. When her grades began to suffer, the school suggested that Taylor get tested for Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD). Concerned about her daughter's future, Taylor's mom, Lisa Peebles, took her to a doctor to be tested. However, the tests proved that Taylor did not have ADD.

As Taylor continued at the public school, her grades worsened and she eventually had to repeat second grade. A single mother on a limited income, Lisa felt like she had hit a roadblock and feared for her daughter's future. Lisa, who works in the medical field, confided in one of the physicians she worked with about Taylor's academic struggles. The physician told her about the Step Up For Students program, which would enable Taylor to attend a public or private school of choice. Eager to help her daughter get back on track, Lisa applied and Taylor was approved for a scholarship.

When Taylor began attending Indigo Christian on the scholarship, her teachers realized that she was in fact a very advanced student and just needed an academic program that could engage and challenge her. Over the past few years, Taylor has risen as a top-notch student, consistently making straight A's and even scoring in the top ten percent of all sixth-graders nationwide who take the Iowa Test of Basic Skills standardized test. Because of her strong academic performance, she may even be eligible to skip seventh grade next year!

Taylor is also beginning to think about her future and is determined to become a pilot. She is hoping to be accepted into Thunderbird Academy, an accredited high school and boarding school in Arizona that specializes in pilot training programs. If accepted into the academy, she would have the opportunity to receive her private pilot license at her high school graduation.

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## **Taylor Shover/2**

Lisa Peebles is extremely proud of her daughter and thankful to the scholarship program and its donors for giving her daughter the ability to turn her life around and work towards a promising future.

### **About Indigo Christian Junior Academy**

Located in Daytona Beach, Indigo Christian Junior Academy serves 22 students, six of whom are Step Up For Students scholarship recipients. The school administers the Iowa Test of Basic Skills to measure student achievement and progress. The tuition rate at the school is \$365 per month.

### **About the Step Up For Students Scholarship Recipients**

The typical Step Up For Students scholarship family has an average income of \$24,489 for a family of four, and more than 60 percent of the scholarship recipients come from single-parent homes. The typical scholarship student is an ethnic minority living with a struggling single parent/caregiver in a high crime community. They are either below grade level, failing at their previous school or both when they receive a scholarship. Parents, who find their children in these circumstances and care about their future, look for viable options. Parents apply for Step Up For Students Scholarships so their children can attend the school best suited for their special needs, beliefs, and abilities, and to address negative trends in their child's learning skills and/or environment.

Step Up For Students Scholarships are funded by corporations that redirect up to 75 percent of their corporate state income tax liability to a qualified Scholarship Funding Organization in exchange for a dollar-for-dollar tax credit. For more information or to learn how your corporation can participate in the program, visit [www.StepUpForStudents.com](http://www.StepUpForStudents.com), or call 1-800 782-9140 for more information.

**Other ways you can support Step Up For Students.** Monetary donations and grants from individuals, foundations and other organizations are vital to the scholarship program. Because 100 percent of the CTC funds must be used for scholarships, there is no allowance in the law to cover program costs associated with administering and distributing the scholarships. Program costs are funded by generous individuals and foundations that believe in equipping all of Florida's children with the educational tools for a successful future. It only costs the Step Up For Students scholarship funding organizations \$50 to administer each scholarship. Because each donation is matched 100 percent by the Walton Family Foundation, a donation of only \$25 will provide \$3,750 scholarship to a low-income child. For more information, call 1 (866) 344-9553 or visit [www.stepupforstudents.com/donors.htm](http://www.stepupforstudents.com/donors.htm).

