



Jasmine Patterson

Calvary Christian Academy
Ormond Beach, FL

Now a vibrant and academically focused 9-year-old, Jasmine Patterson used to sing an entirely different tune. Hers was a song of disappointment and indifference, as she resisted getting out of bed each morning and her mother struggled to keep her motivated for her first two years of elementary school.

“She became withdrawn and uninterested in school,” says her mother, Allyson Greear. “She started off so strong in kindergarten, but it just went south from there.”

It was during second grade that Allyson noticed the dramatic change in her daughter. Just to keep Jasmine engaged in her school work, Allyson would frequently have to provide incentives. She would take off a half-day from her job at Wells Fargo so she could spend more time with her daughter, or she would race to school to treat Jasmine to lunch at a nearby restaurant. Allyson was determined to keep her daughter on task and help her succeed in school.

Allyson had considered other education options for Jasmine. But as a leader of a single mother’s ministry, she is all too familiar with the financial challenges of being a single parent and the daunting bills that typically accompany a private school education. That’s when she heard about a scholarship for families in the same financial predicament.

“When I heard from another parent about the Step Up For Students Scholarship,” Allyson says, “I knew that my prayers had been answered. I cannot begin to say how good it feels as a parent to give my child the gift of an education that suits her needs.”

That gift began a year ago, when Jasmine began attending Calvary Christian Academy in Ormond Beach on a Step Up scholarship. Almost immediately, Allyson began to see a change in Jasmine’s outlook and motivation. The school, she says, combined a sense of community with strong parental involvement. And Jasmine started pushing herself.

“If Jasmine comes home with a 94 percent, she will push it to get a 96 percent,” Allyson says. “Her drive is incredible and it is in part because she knows that the scholarship is a privilege. I always tell her, ‘your tuition is not another bill because this scholarship has made it a gift.’”

Jasmine is now an honor roll student who is engaged in a Calvary curriculum that places an emphasis on arts, and she has also built many close relationships with both classmates and teachers. Allyson says the school fits her daughter like a glove, which has allowed her to blossom into a young scholar who dreams of working with animals when she gets older after pursuing a degree in either zoology or marine biology

“Jasmine knows what is going on in the hearts of other kids,” says her mother. “She feels like she is with family when she is at school.”

About Calvary Christian Academy

Calvary Christian Academy, a ministry of Calvary Christian Center in Ormond Beach, is accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and offers preschool through 12th grade. The school opened in 1985 and has seen its enrollment increase yearly. The tuition for kindergarten through fifth grade is \$4,750 and increases to \$5,275 for sixth through 12th grade. Due to the dedication of the administrator and staff, Calvary is able to serve more than 400 students, ages 1-18, with more than 50 students benefitting from the Step Up For Students Scholarship. Calvary Christian Academy administers the Stanford Achievement test.