

***“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, caring, committed people can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”***

***- Margaret Mead***



The ESA Foundation’s “Scholarship Brochure” series honors those who have provided, or are honored by an endowed scholarship. This series provides a link between the student recipients and this prestigious group – who are committed to positive change for the world.

The ESA Foundation is a 501(c)3 public foundation established in 1970 and recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as an organization exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. It is a non-profit and tax-exempt organization pledged to the development of philanthropic activities of volunteers, providing assistance to established programs that serve human needs. The ESA Foundation envisions a future world community working together to assist those in need, educating those who seek to learn, and assisting those who strive to improve the quality of their lives or the lives of others.

[ESA International is an organization founded in 1929 and is a premier leadership and service organization bringing volunteers together to pursue programs and projects that make a positive difference to the world community. It is dedicated to developing confidence, competence, and career opportunities for the members. ESA promotes education, service, and association through programs focused on personal development and leadership training.]

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## **ESA Foundation**

***“Serving the World Community  
... Because We Care”***

**BILLY BROCKMANN  
MEMORIAL  
ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**



## **BILLY BROCKMANN MEMORIAL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**

Judging Criteria “E” – (100 points)

- Weighted evenly
- 20 pts – Character
- 20 pts – Leadership
- 20 pts – Service
- 20 pts – Financial Need
- 20 pts – Scholastic Ability

Special Criteria: Residents of Dewitt, Madison Clinton, Bond, St. Clair, McLean, Tazwell Peoria, or Woodford counties in Illinois majoring in medical science, engineering, business, or teaching.

The Billy Brockmann Memorial Endowment was established in 2000 by Alpha Alpha Chapter and the first two \$ 1,000 scholarships were awarded in 2002.

(Written by Billy’s mother, Susie Brockmann))

Billy was 2-1/2 when he was diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia. We were given the option to go to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital for treatment. We were in treatment for two years, but Billy experienced seizures throughout the treatment due to medications. Approximately two months after his diagnosis, Billy was in remission.

We traveled to Peoria for maintenance therapies that Billy weathered fairly well, aside from some rather bad allergies, which the doctors said sometimes, occur as a side effect of the cranial radiation Billy received.

By the time Billy turned five, he was doing well and we were praying he was out of the woods. Due to his illness, Billy entered Kindergarten at the age of six. He loved school and the family seriously felt he had beaten the disease.

During this period of time, I was asked to join the Alpha Alpha Chapter of ESA International in Illinois. Due to my association with St. Jude and ESA International being the single largest contributor to the Hospital, I felt a connection with ESA. St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital had given my son a chance for life and I owed them greatly. I joined ESA and loved it. ESA’s purpose and the socialization with other women were good. Billy grew into a fine young boy during this time. He wasn’t having any major medical problems due to his therapy. St. Jude checked him annually in Memphis and, when I had a sudden concern over Billy’s health at various times in Peoria.

Billy did well until he was nine. By this time, we had another son, Andy. In December, 1998, Billy awoke with a sore throat and told me he didn’t feel well. Since it was the day before Christmas break, we kept him home from school. Our Christmas plans were to visit the grandparents. I packed Billy up and we went to his pediatrician to check things out. As I entered the parking lot, Billy went into a Grand Mal Seizure – a non-responsive - and this is when our nightmare started. Billy was rushed to the hospital by ambulance and was later diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. The cause was unknown, but it was a possible side effect of intrathecal treatment and cranial radiation. Billy was freed from leukemia, but was now going to die from a brain tumor.

Billy was given 18 months to live with radiation treatment. His right side became paralyzed and he was eventually on Hospice care. We had Billy after this diagnosis for 11 months. He made it to his 10<sup>th</sup> birthday in March; we were happy because Billy loved parties and people.

Dave, Andy, and I had wonderful support from our family, friends, and ESA sisters throughout this horrible time in our lives. After Billy died on November 28, 1999, Jamie Atchison, my ESA sister, made an announcement at one of our meetings to establish a memorial scholarship

fund in memory of Billy with the ESA Foundation. We were touched and agreed this would be acceptable. David and I decided that we would make it a scholarship for students in Illinois who were studying or going into the field of medical research. We have since broadened the major to include engineering since Billy loved building legos, and teaching. David and I are very honored that Alpha Alpha Chapter put forth the effort to establish this endowment in memory of Billy. We can never bring Billy back, but knowing that so many people care somehow helps us. Our hearts ache sometimes when we remember Billy at fundraisers for this scholarship, but it makes us feel good to honor his memory. Billy was a fun-loving boy who loved being with people and loved to play and have fun. We think this is something he would have wanted.

We thank the ESA Foundation and especially Alpha Alpha Chapter of ESA International for this honor. We hope that some other more fortunate person can enter school and make a positive contribution in medical research, engineering, or teaching in memory of Billy – a sweet little boy that loved to play.

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The ESA Foundation Scholarship program began in 1977. Over 100 scholarships are awarded annually to students across the United States and Internationally who meet the criteria of the individual endowment scholarships.

The Scholarship program operates through volunteer services with the exception of the audit performed by Sample & Bailey CPA, PC, Ft. Collins, Colorado.

Applications are reviewed and processed by the State Counselor and a Regional Scholarship Committee, with a final review by the Scholarship Coordinators who submit them for final judging to judges throughout the United States who are selected from education and business professionals, who are not members of the ESA Foundation.