

Nicole Donant

Cadette Girl Scout Troop 234
Bronze Award Project Recipient
National Young Achiever Award Recipient 2005
NBC Three Wishes Recipient

Nicole's original dream was to wait until a library was finished "someday" so she could create a "story time" for young children. Although Nicole has experienced physical limits in her life, she has used books and her imagination to travel. She wants to share that experience with others. So, earlier this year Nicole and her father Steve went to the first casting call for the NBC Three Wishes and submitted several wishes for the community, Pegasus Farms, Nicole's Girl Scout Troop, and for herself.

On October 18th, Nicole's school bus delivered her to the site of the new Mineral City village library. Nicole, her parents Steve and Linda and hundreds of local residents, family, school and Girl Scout friends cheered when singer Amy Grant, host of the NBC show "Three Wishes" and Carl Oosterhouse, carpenter from "Trading Spaces" made a very special presentation and unveiled the new 3,200 square foot, Village of Mineral City, Nicole Donant Library.

Nicole had not been told ahead of time that her wish had been granted, but she didn't give up. "I just kept hoping that it would come true, and here it is," she said. Built on village-owned ground, the new library houses over 6,000 books collected from her Girl Scout Bronze Award book drive. It includes a "Nicole's corner" in the new library with a painted mural and fleece mushrooms used for chairs, flowers and books. There are eight computers, thousands of books, and many volunteers ready to staff and manage the facility.

Like the story that begins, "Once upon a time," this story in Mineral City tells us how a young girl cared enough to make a difference. I think you will agree, Nicole Donant is an awesome example of a girl who found in Girl Scouting...Courage to embark on a new adventure, confidence discovering her new abilities, shining character shaped by her values, and connections through friendships old and new and where a girl, one unique and determined girl, returned those gifts and made the world a better place.

Currently, Nicole is a student at Tusky Valley Middle school and is in the seventh grade. She is still active in 4-H Club, Girl Scout Troop 234, and riding At Pegasus Farms. She has earned the "God and Family" Award and the Girl Scout Bronze Award.

Background Information:

Nicole is a Cadette Girl Scout in Bolivar, Ohio, and has been involved in Girl Scouting for 6 years. She is a young woman who has made community service an integral part of her young life and has already made a lasting impact in her community. As a third year junior Girl Scout, Nicole saw a need in the Mineral City community and set her sights on developing a Bronze Award Project of organizing a community book drive for a future library.

Nicole's project required her to assess her interests, talents and limitations and put into action a project that would improve the lives of others. She had to develop a plan, find people to work with, promote her project to her community and carry out the plan.

Nicole listened as the Mayor of Mineral City talked about having a library "someday." And Nicole made a plan! Because she loves to read, she believes that all children should have the enjoyment

of reading and going to the library. And that was the start of her project! When ready, she made a presentation to the city council and proposed a Community Book Drive. Her original goal was to collect 1,000 books.

Nicole's success can be measured in several ways. Personally, she developed many new skills with communication, public relations, and public speaking. She prioritized her interests and talents, put aside her limitations (Nicole is a young person with Cerebral Palsy since birth and uses a walker to aid her mobility) and she launched her project. For the future library, she more than surpassed her goal with contributions of over 6,000 books received and donations still coming in.

However, more than just the numbers of books, Nicole has mobilized an entire community to make a dream a reality. When I speak to the Girl Scout leaders and girls from her community, you know she has inspired them. They see how even one girl can make a difference. They are talking about the things they might be able to do.

The residents of Mineral City see the potential for what they can achieve in their community. They recognize that the quality of their lives has been improved because one young girl, who loved to read, took on the challenge of making a difference in their lives. After watching this young woman take on the challenge of carrying out her successful project, the Mayor of Mineral City proposed that the future library be named, "The Nicole Donant Mineral City Public Library" to honor her community spirit and her love of reading. The Mineral City council agreed.

This past summer Nicole was nominated as a Young Leader/Achiever of Tomorrow through The International Leadership Network. She was chosen as one of only six nationally recognized youth leaders for her volunteer service through Girl Scouting, specifically for her Junior Girl Scout Bronze Award project. More information about the Young Achievers can be found at www.youngachievers.us/awardrecipients.shtml For Nicole, her family and her Girl Scout friends, that award was exciting and inspiring.

For more information about Nicole and her Bronze Award Project, please contact:

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