

## **Sweet Jane's Wish Foundation Awards Scholarships to Downingtown East and West Ice Hockey Players**

**Downingtown— May 8<sup>th</sup>** — Sweet Jane's Wish (SJW) Foundation is happy to announce Seniors, Thomas Venzie, of Downingtown West and, Abigail Carmain, of Downingtown East have been selected as the winners of the annual SJW scholarship fund. Four students are selected each school year from the tennis and ice hockey teams by the SJW Foundation. Thomas and Abby join our Fall scholarship recipients, Lauren Ayres and Nicky Burke. SJW Foundation is a fund of the Chester County Community Foundation and honors the memory of Jane Gerlach Booge who tragically lost her battle with breast cancer at age 47. Jane attended Downingtown High School and was a member of the tennis team. Her quiet confidence and positive attitude took her to numerous championship matches including districts and state competitions. Jane was well known for her compassion and friendship to many.

SJW Foundation honors students such as Thomas and Abby, who share Jane's qualities of determination, resilience, camaraderie and have a love of tennis or ice hockey. Thomas and Abby demonstrate these qualities by consistent dedication to their sport and team members. Thomas is a fourteen-year veteran of ice hockey and has played on many teams and in many positions over his career. His role as goaltender challenged him more than any other position. As goaltender, protecting the "crease" taught him accountability due to his position directly reflecting the final score of the game. From his vantage point, he could see the entire rink and enjoyed encouraging his teammates to do their best. This skill proved useful in his role as a Captain of the West Allied Special Olympics Bocce Team. The enthusiasm of the athletes was inspiring and a reminder that playing on a team, whatever your skill level, is truly fun. Abby began her ice hockey career at age ten. She was a petite, shy girl, who grew into a passionate ice hockey player. Like Thomas, Abby played on many teams, with different coaches, teammates, and rinks. Change is the essence of life and our ability to handle challenges teaches us resilience. This quality determines our success and enhances our enjoyment of life. Abby had to call on that resilience last year, after some difficulties made it hard to focus on the game. This year she returned enthusiastic and committed to the game. Her positive outlook and dedication to her sport and her team was noticed and she was named Team Captain. Both Thomas and Abby have played for many teams, many rinks and had many changes in their lives. Each change is a challenge. Each change is a choice to rise to a new level, create new friendships and learn new skills. Their ability to adapt over the years has brought them success that will benefit them as they take on new challenges following graduation.

We are honored to have Thomas and Abby join the previous thirty-six recipients of this \$4,500 award. To date SJW Foundation has awarded over \$114,000 in scholarships to Downingtown East and West High School Seniors who have participated in the student tennis and ice hockey programs and are furthering their education at a University, College, or Trade School.

Due to the success of the annual golf outing and the amazing generosity of supporters, the SJW Foundation, is also able to support the Living Beyond Breast Cancer (LBBC) organization and the Chester County Hospital Foundation, SHiNE with a yearly donation. The SJW Foundation has donated more than \$24,000 to support local families experiencing financial crisis, due to the additional costs incurred while fighting breast cancer.

SJW Foundation scholarships are funded by an annual golf outing, dinner, and auction and by generous donations from our community. Please join us on Monday, September 11, 2023, for our 12<sup>th</sup> annual golf outing. The outing will be held at the Downingtown Country Club, in Downingtown, PA. Please look online for more information at [www.sweetjaneswish.com](http://www.sweetjaneswish.com) and follow us on Facebook. We hope you join us for a wonderful day that supports our community!

**For more information, press only:**

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For more information on the Sweet Jane's Wish Foundation:

[www.sweetjaneswish.com](http://www.sweetjaneswish.com) and follow us on Facebook.

Downingtown West Picture from left:

Coach, Brett Mackell, parent, Kim Venzie, scholarship recipient, Thomas Venzie, parent, Jeffrey Venzie, Coach, Ben Weston



Downingtown East Picture from left:

Parent, Peter Carmain, scholarship recipient, Abby Carmain, parent, Heidi Carmain

