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Student Spotlight 2015

Alexander & Sebastian Salgado

Brunswick Christian Academy
Brunswick, GA



Brothers Alexander and Sebastian Salgado are thriving at their parent-selected school, Brunswick Christian Academy (BCA) – a school that they are able to attend with a scholarship from the AAA Scholarship Foundation. Both boys have been able to overcome their own individual struggles at this school, and their parents are desperate to keep them on the path to success – a hope that can only be made possible through the corporate community’s support of this tax credit scholarship program.

Alexander, 11, is now in his second year on the scholarship program as a sixth-grader at BCA. Each day he is eager to go to school where he is welcomed with a community of support from teachers and fellow classmates. However, things were much different for Alexander just a few short years ago when he was attending his local public school. Although it was a good school, he faced bullying from other children on a daily basis. Worried for her son’s physical and mental wellbeing,

Sheila Salgado attempted to get the problem resolved through the school staff, but the bullying continued and it impacted Alexander’s performance in school.

Sheila and her husband Fermin searched for alternative solutions for their son, and found their answer at Brunswick Christian Academy. Unable to afford the tuition on their own, the school staff informed them about the Georgia Qualified Education Expense Tax Credit Program available through the AAA Scholarship Foundation. They were overjoyed to learn that they met the income qualifications, and soon submitted an application. Due to the high demand for the scholarship, they were placed on a waitlist, but Alexander finally received a scholarship to attend BCA for his fifth grade year. Now in the sixth grade, Alexander is excelling with mainly all A’s in his classes and dreams of becoming a pastor one day. Each day, he is excited about school and is hopeful that he will be able to continue there in the years to come.

The school has also had a tremendous impact on Alexander’s younger brother Sebastian. Sebastian, 5, was born seven weeks premature and has faced many challenges in his young life. He suffers from a motor and sensory disorder, has multiple fears and anxieties, and there is even a possibility that he may be on the autism spectrum. Prior to receiving the AAA Scholarship to attend BCA, Sebastian attended Pre-K at the local public school. Unfortunately, it turned out to be a bad experience for him. His anxiety would cause him to get sick every day before going to his class and he missed a lot of school. He would throw major tantrums and did not communicate with other children. The simple task of leaving

the house was a struggle for the family. As the problems escalated, Sheila and Fermin knew they would need to make a change to save their son from continuing this downward spiral. While they consulted doctors to address the issues he was facing, they also knew they needed to place him in an educational environment that could provide him with more individualized attention.

The answer came when Sheila was able to receive the AAA Scholarship for Sebastian to also attend BCA with his brother for Kindergarten for the 2015-16 school year. To say that Sebastian has made a vast improvement in a short amount of time would be an understatement. The one-on-one attention and support from his dedicated teacher and the staff at the school, combined with reinforcement at home, has made all the difference in the world. Academically, he is starting to catch up with his peers. He started school in August not even being able to recite the alphabet and can now write his name (and in cursive). He has also improved behaviorally and socially. He now plays with other children – and even has a best friend, a big step for a child that once struggled to communicate with his classmates. At home, his whole demeanor has changed as well. The tantrums have subsided and Sheila is able to enjoy even the simple things, like being able to take pictures of Sebastian – something he would absolutely not allow her to do before.

When asked what the scholarship means to her family, Sheila holds back tears of happiness and gratitude. “I cannot put into words what this opportunity has meant for our family,” Sheila says. “The AAA Scholarship Foundation and its donors have given my sons the ability to attend a school where their individual needs can be met and they can overcome so many struggles. This program has changed our lives for the better, and for that, we are truly grateful.”

About AAA Scholarship Foundation

The typical AAA Scholarship student is an ethnic minority living with a struggling single parent/caregiver in a high crime community. The average household income of families accepted to receive scholarships is \$23,559 for a family of four. Many children 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. They seek an atmosphere that challenges their child to reverse inadequate learning and/or social patterns and the potential lifelong negative impact. They wish to change their child’s learning environment, acquaintances, and the unfortunate predictable outcomes associated with school failure.

AAA Scholarships are funded in Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Nevada and Pennsylvania by corporations that redirect a portion of their state tax liability to the AAA Scholarship Foundation in exchange for a tax credit (dollar for dollar in Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Georgia and Nevada, and up to 90 percent in Pennsylvania). The AAA Scholarship Foundation is one of the only approved Scholarship 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organizations exclusively serving qualifying low-income, disabled and/or displaced students through these Scholarship Tax Credit programs. AAA Scholarship Foundation provides your company with the convenience and efficiency of a single-solution for participating in multiple state tax credit scholarship programs. For more information or to learn how your corporation can participate in the program, visit www.AAAScholarships.org, or contact Kerri Vaughan at kerri@aaascholarships.org or 888 707-2465 ext. 730.



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