



Brynne Varvel is the Recipient of the \$15,000 D4K Christian Kennedy Young Adult Scholarship

Dressage4Kids and Anne Baber Wallis are pleased to announce that Brynne Varvel is the recipient of the 2023 D4K Christian Kennedy Young Adult Scholarship. This \$15,000 scholarship is awarded to promote, train, and inspire young riders through a special winter training grant, and provides funds for one advanced rider to train with Oded Shimoni at OS Dressage in Wellington, Florida during the Winter Season 2023.

Thank you to the many generous donors, and thank you especially to Oded Shimoni, who donates his time to help make this scholarship opportunity possible.

Previous scholarship recipient Alicia Aiyawar had this to say of her scholarship experience – “This experience has been life changing for my horse and for me. I really learned to be more determined, more thorough, and to ride the training scale each and every day. It was incredibly rewarding to make so much progress, and I will be forever thankful for the amazing education I received during my time training with Oded.”

The D4K Christian Kennedy Young Adult Scholarship is awarded in memory of Christian Kennedy and honors his passion for learning and dedication to horses. The criteria for the scholarship include – exceptional talent, proven ability to work hard, demonstrated ethical behavior, horsemanship skills, and the consistent drive towards stated goals. Scholarship recipient Brynne Varvel has all of these attributes and more.

Dr. Angela Blackwell writes, “I have known Brynne for several years and watched her develop into a lovely young rider who is very focused on the needs of her horses. As an equine veterinarian and chiropractor with a special interest in sport horse and rehabilitation, I examine a lot of equine patients, and the horses always tell the real story. What stands out to me the most [about Brynne] is that as you enter the stables, you see all her horses with their ears forward, greeting you with smiles.”

Brynne is a 23-year-old young professional from Bloomington, Indiana. She began riding at five years old and competing in dressage at age 11. She is currently a USDF Bronze and Silver Medalist with notable placings at both USDF Regional Championships and the USEF Festival of Champions. Not content to just ride, Brynne graduated with a Bachelors in Management from Indiana University in 2021 and has also completed Part 1 of the USDF L Judge Education Program, with plans to complete Part 2. Brynne currently trains out of her family's KWPN breeding farm, Varvel Sporthorses, where she also helps raise the next generation of prospects in addition to coaching local students.



Photo credit: Abigail Grace Photography

One of Brynne's students, Stephanie Criswell writes, "I have been riding with Brynne for two years and to say it has been transformational is an understatement! Brynne has helped me work through the aftermath of a bad riding accident. I met Brynne years earlier and was impressed with her poise, confidence, and commitment to correct training. I had seen her continue to develop as a rider and believed she could help me enjoy riding again. Brynne helped me feel safe and gave me tools to create confidence in my riding ability. I'm having so much fun riding now and I am eternally grateful! She works so hard every day, and I know will take full advantage of improving and growing as a rider. I also know she will continue to pass on her knowledge to future riders!"

On learning of the scholarship award, Brynne says, "I am so excited to be able to have this opportunity; it really means the world to me! I am looking forward to expanding my knowledge both in and out of the saddle and am excited to be able to bring that back to my training and clients at home. Additionally, I am thrilled to be able to take my long-time partner-- he has really been through it all with me and I am looking forward to sharing this chapter with him. I am moved by the opportunity to ride in the memory of Christian and incredibly thankful to everyone who makes this scholarship possible. The biggest thank you to Dressage4Kids, Oded Shimoni, Anne Baber Wallis, and all other donors for making my dreams a reality through this scholarship."

Congratulations, Brynne!



Brynne and her own JND's Illuminator, or "Lumie" as he's also known. Lumie is a 2014 KWPN/ADHHA registered gelding who Brynne has owned since he was 2 years old. Brynne says that Lumie has the most try and grit of any horse she's worked with and is without a doubt her best friend. Photo credit: Abigail Grace Photography

About Dressage4Kids

Dressage4Kids, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization incorporated for the express purpose of providing educational and competitive opportunities for youth riders and the adults who support them.

<https://dressage4kids.org>

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