

## Orphan Benefit Helps Young Woman Continue Education

Angela Wilson has a strong spirit and a determination to overcome extreme challenges. At 23 years of age, she has endured more than anyone should have to.

A few years ago, her mother developed cancer. Since Angela's father passed away when she was a young child, she became her mother's caregiver. As she juggled

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– Angela Wilson

the demands of high school and the first year of college, she held a job and accompanied her mother to countless medical appointments. Sadly, her mom passed away when Angela was 19.

Through the difficult days that followed, Angela continued to focus on her education, graduating with highest honors from the University of Wisconsin-Parkside in 2007 with a degree in biology.

In January 2008, following an unusual winter tornado outbreak, financial services representative Karen Willkomm-Stiles was checking on Catholic Knights members in the Kenosha, Wis., area to see if they were okay.

"Karen called me one night to find out what I was up to," said Angela. "She found out that my parents had both passed away, and she mentioned that I might be eligible for the Orphan Benefit.

"Karen talked to people at the home office and although I didn't qualify completely, they decided to award me a partial benefit," Angela said gratefully.

Receiving an Orphan Benefit of \$7,000 has removed some of the stress from Angela's life. Since graduating from college, she has held two jobs to earn money to attend graduate school at Chicago's

Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science.

The award enables her to move to Chicago this summer and forego the long daily commute to school. In two years, Angela will be a physician assistant.

"It feels amazing to get recognized for the hardships I've been through and for what I've done with my life," she wrote in a thank-you letter to President Bill O'Toole. "To lose one parent is very difficult. However, to lose both makes life seem almost impossible. For Catholic Knights to award a scholarship to reflect all the hard work, heartache and unhappiness that one has to endure during such a time is extremely empowering."



*Catholic Knights President Bill O'Toole (center) and financial services representative Karen Willkomm-Stiles (right) visit with Angela Wilson and present her with \$7,000 through Catholic Knights orphan benefit program.*

### CATHOLIC KNIGHTS ORPHAN BENEFIT

A child who has lost his or her parents is offered monthly living allowances through age 18 and college scholarship grants. Benefits are offered to a child who becomes orphaned and where at least one parent has died while a member of Catholic Knights or to a child who was a member at the time he or she became orphaned. A child must be natural or legally adopted; foster children and stepchildren are not covered under this benefit.

The following monthly living allowances are offered:

Children	0-5 years old	\$200
	6-13 years old	\$250
	14-18 years old	\$350

College scholarship grants of up to \$4,000 per year are available for a student enrolled full time in a four-year undergraduate program at an accredited college or university or in a two-year program at an accredited technical or vocational school. The total amount of grants cannot exceed \$16,000 for a four-year program or \$8,000 for a two-year program.