

A Story of Survival

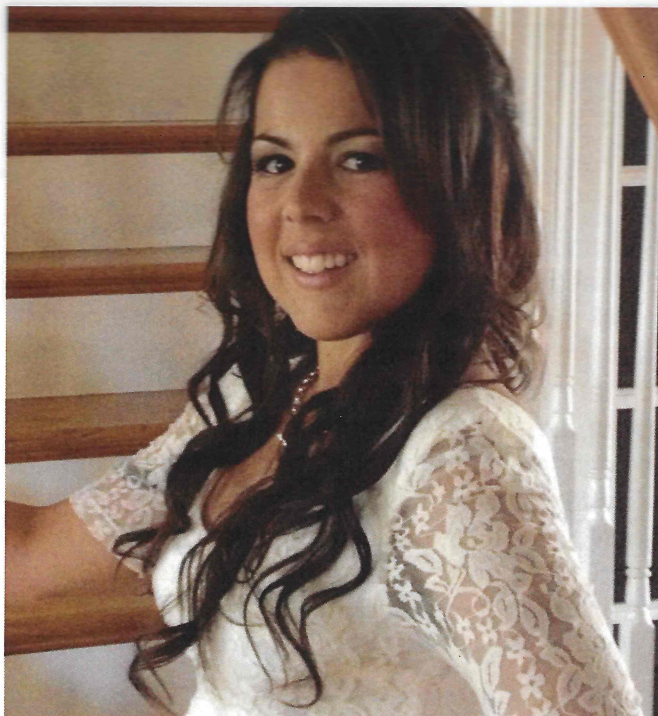
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Natalia Ferrara is a freshman majoring in Early Education. Just by looking at Natalia, she looks like an average college student roaming the halls and going from class to class. Natalia is from Middletown, Delaware and a recent graduate of St. George's high school. However, underneath that innocence you see wondering the halls, taking exams and writing papers, lays a story that will make you believe that anything is possible.

Natalia came home from kindergarten and was crying all day. Her uncle explained to her mother that she was crying for no reason and they couldn't figure out why. So after many discussions that day Natalia's mother brought her to the hospital and that's when they found out the diagnosis. At the age of three, Natalia was diagnosed with Leukemia.

Natalia only has lasting scars, physical, mental and emotional, but she views these scars in a positive manner because they show the will to live can start at the earliest of ages. These scars show that someone cannot only be taught to survive by their environment and their elders, but they can also be born with it. Some people are born to be survivors and others are not; Natalia was born with the will to survive, which she does not take for granted in her every day life. Natalia talks about the struggles she experienced in the past with school and in everyday life. She has breezed through those struggles because of the lessons she has learned from coping at such a young age.

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Natalia chose Neumann University not because it was close to home, but because of what the university values and its reputation for caring about the students. The teachers do everything in their power to help you succeed, which resonates with Natalia because of the struggles she went through at such a young age.

Early Education is the route that Natalia has chosen and she is determined to succeed in this endeavor. The lesson of being diagnosed and surviving Leukemia has taught Natalia to never give up in life, which she hopes to instill in her future students.

It's human beings like this that make being alive so amazing! The will to scratch and claw in their times of struggle just to live, just to breathe again and cherish the moments they have on earth with their family and friends that they hold so dearly. When you read this article, don't think about what you have done in your past or what you may have failed at, think about what you have done to make you who you are. Scars will heal, pain may last for an hour, a day or even a year but eventually it will pass. Natalia let it pass a long time ago. Instead of dwelling on the negative, she turned it into a positive life lesson. She inspires the people around her, not by her words but by her actions. Stay humble, make your presence known when you are gone, not when you're here.