

# On Her Way to a Rewarding Career, Thanks to the SSA

## *Taylor Moody of Milford, Michigan, benefits from an SSA Foundation Scholarship.*

By John Dunlap, Editor – SSA Globe

It is the Christmas holiday season and heartwarming stories seem to find their way into the news in plentiful supply at this time of the year. But some of those stories—like one that happened in the self storage industry this past June and is profoundly and positively affecting the life of an 18-year old in Michigan—warm the heart regardless of the time of the year.



*Scott Moody with daughter Taylor, recipient of an SSA scholarship.*

By the end of her senior year of high school, Taylor Moody knew that she wanted to be a veterinarian. But after her graduation she wasn't sure when she would be able to start her collegiate career. Times were tough (still are) and the daughter of Scott Moody, a manager at 1-800-Mini-Storage in Redford, Michigan, was working two jobs to try to come up with the money needed to start college. Happily, after her father applied for a SSA Foundation Scholarship, she found out that she was one of a select group awarded a scholarship and was able to start attending Oakland Community College in Farmington at the start of the fall semester.

"Oh, it was so great," said the 18-year old Taylor on finding out that she had been awarded a \$2,500 scholarship. "My financial aid didn't go through as I had hoped and I wouldn't have been able to attend school this year if it wasn't for the SSA. Thanks to them, my dreams can now become a reality."

Now Taylor's tuition and books for this semester are covered by the SSA and she has already put into motion a plan to attend McComb College after this semester and eventually go to Michigan State University, where she plans on getting a four-year degree in veterinary medicine. She hopes to become a veterinary technician.

Throughout her senior year of high school, she thought that she might go into forensic science until the gory part of that job became evident. Her love of animals swayed her in a different direction. She had lots of dogs while she was growing up. Now her family has just two cats ("We need another dog," she laughs), but her devotion to animals has continued to grow.

### **Appreciating Self Storage**

Her appreciation of self storage also has grown, thanks to her dad. Scott Moody's facility is located in Redford, which is only about a half-hour from Detroit. It opened in 2007 and has 600 units. As most everyone now knows, Michigan has been hit particularly hard by the tough economy in recent years.

"I go to Dad's self storage facility all the time to see him," Taylor says. "Lately, because of the economy, Dad has had to deal with people having to be evicted. It's really a sticky situation but my Dad is really good at dealing with people and trying to help them through tough times."

Those hard times also have forced Taylor to try to hold down two jobs while also attending college—she works at a Quiznos restaurant and a cleaning business. But thanks to the SSA Foundation Scholarship, she is now optimistic about getting through college in four years.

Scott Mooney says that it all came together primarily because of his boss, Eugene Scherzen, who is the owner and managing partner of the 1-800-Mini-Storage chain.

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“Eugene came to me with the recommendation that Taylor and I apply for a scholarship,” Scott says. “He attends a lot of SSA functions and really appreciates what the SSA offers its members. So Taylor wrote a letter, a kind of statement of her aspirations, and sent that in along with her picture.”

About a month later, Scott got the good news and couldn’t wait to pass it along to Taylor.

“I got the news first,” he said. “The SSA emailed me to let me know that Taylor had received one of the scholarships. I told her that night and she was so excited. We both just couldn’t believe it.

“With Taylor working at part-time jobs and really wanting to go to school we didn’t think that something so great could come along and help make her college career possible. The scholarship has helped make Taylor’s dreams have a far better chance of coming true.”

Taylor echoes her dad’s feelings and adds that perhaps the best part of the scholarship is the ability to cover the

expense of school books for her courses. “The books are so expensive,” she says. “It was such a relief to have that covered.”

So now Taylor Moody can have a wonderful holiday season and celebrate the spirit of Christmas knowing full well that dreams can come true. Living through a tough time in a part of America that has been profoundly affected by the economy’s downturn the last few years, she has been able to see a light at the end of the tunnel, thanks to the SSA’s scholarship program.

“I’d really like to thank the SSA for helping me with this,” she says.

At a time when good news sometimes can be hard to find, isn’t it nice to know that the self storage community in general and the SSA Foundation program in particular, can help an aspiring veterinarian fulfill her goals. And thanks to an owner/operator like Eugene Scherzen, who realized that an employee had a child who could benefit from the SSA Foundation Scholarship, Taylor and Scott Moody are having a very merry Christmas. ❖

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