Danielle Woolston graduated from Grafton High School in 2012. It is easy to see why the judges selected Danielle from a pool of highly qualified and competitive candidates to become this year’s recipient of the Michael J. Tylavsky, Jr. Memorial Scholarship award. Danielle represents the spirit of the award in both her compassion and service to her school and the community.

Danielle’s concern for helping the less fortunate dates back to her elementary school days when she began volunteering to be a special needs buddy, a Safe and Drug Free facilitator, and later in Middle School, a peer buddy to help other students. Throughout the years, Danielle has been recognized for her school involvement. Danielle’s high school principal endorsed her for the Prudential Spirit Award in 2011. Danielle also received the PTSA Leadership award in 2010. While maintaining a part time job, Danielle has been on the honor roll during high school and has participated in many school activities including playing for the varsity tennis team, working as the wrestling team manager, and helping as an assistant to the Grafton High School Athletic Trainer. She was voted the “Most Friendliest” by peers and was also on the homecoming court in 2011. She has volunteered for the Souper Bowl of Caring Campaign since 2008 and became a National Student Alliance member of the Souper Bowl of Caring Program in 2011. A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes since 2008, Danielle has served as secretary, captain, and co-captain. Danielle is also a talented singer and volunteers to share her talent as a member of the select choir and her church’s praise band.

Danielle’s community service extends beyond her town. In 2010, Danielle went on the “No Sweat Mission Trip” and travelled to Bogota, Columbia to work with deaf and blind students. Locally, Danielle has been a volunteer at CHKD, the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, the Leukemia Foundation, the Relay for Life, and the Mayflower Marathon food drive since 2008. Danielle credits her parents for her compassionate spirit and concern for others. She says, “I was taught at an early age that it is better to give than receive”. When speaking of Danielle, her school counselor said, “If there is anyone who epitomizes the traits of character, integrity, initiative, conduct, leadership, and academic achievement and scholastic aptitude, it is this young woman who is a genuine role model for young ladies at our school.”

Danielle was not able to participate in sports due to serious health issues and chose to continue in the sports field by working as an assistant to the sports trainer at the high school. She accumulated over 280 volunteer hours working with the trainer over 2 years. This experience helped Danielle in her decision to pursue a degree in physical therapy or athletic training at Old Dominion University.

Danielle’s very proud parents are Chris and Deborah Wright and C. Todd and Lisa Woolston. Danielle has one brother and three sisters.

Best of luck at Old Dominion University,

2012 Tylavsky Scholarship Winner ~Danielle Woolston!