

My parents didn't make much money, and certainly didn't have much in savings or investments. There were two mortgages on the house, and my dad did most home repairs. As we all do as parents of Scarsdale students, they made sacrifices for my education. I knew we didn't have as much money as my friends—in the '90s that meant that we didn't have cable, I didn't have a TV in my room, my own telephone line, or my own car. In today's world that translates into a late model iPhone and no game console, Lululemon wardrobe and certainly not a car.

When it was time to apply to college, for better or worse, my parents didn't put any restrictions on my search. I had a good friend who could have gotten into any college, but because her family was also struggling, she had to limit her choice to what they could afford. I ended up getting into a college that was certainly out of our budget. I sent in my deposit and started filling out the FAFSA. We were hopeful that I would get a Pell grant, but our application was denied because my parents took in just over the maximum qualifying income. My financial aid package was a combination of subsidized and unsubsidized loans. I applied for a few state and federal scholarships but once again I didn't meet the requirements.

The only organization that gave me any money for my education was the PTA Scholarship Fund. For someone who was looking at decades of loan payments, this gift meant maybe one less loan payment, one more textbook, fewer hours at my on-campus job. Scarsdale had given me an incomparable elementary and secondary education and through the generosity of the community they showed how much they believed in me and wanted me to succeed.

While the money was certainly appreciated, it wasn't until I was older and moved back to Scarsdale with my own family that I realized how much it meant to be supported by my community. I now have a son in the high school and cannot help but notice the financial disparity between students is still in full force. I urge you to donate to the scholarship fund to show those students in need that their community is behind them and supports their dreams as they continue their education.