

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ward Lumber Announces Sidney J. Ward Sr. and Agnes V. Ward Memorial Scholarship

Ward Lumber has selected Naomi Peduzzi as the winner of this year's Sidney J. Ward Sr. and Agnes V. Ward Memorial Scholarship. Naomi receives \$1,000 to be used toward her education at Vermont State College after taking a gap year.



Naomi is graduating from Keene Central High School later this month. While in high school, Naomi received numerous awards and honors including being named Valedictorian, President's Outstanding Academic Excellence Award in 2013 and 2014, and High Honor Roll Award from 2013 to 2015. Naomi played varsity soccer and basketball where she received several MVP and Student Athlete Awards. She was also a member of the National Honors Society, Key Club and Student Council. She was also a member of the Green Team, and in the Drama Club. Naomi has been active in helping the community through community service including road side clean up, fundraising for Muscular Dystrophy and volunteering at Jay's Ironman Aid Station.

Naomi is the daughter of Paulette Peduzzi of Jay, NY and the late Mark Peduzzi, who worked at Ward Lumber in Jay for 29 years before his passing earlier this year. In addition to awarding Naomi the Scholarship Award, Ward Lumber set up a fundraising campaign called "MP3" in Mark's honor to help raise funds for both of Mark's children, Naomi and Luke Peduzzi, for their education. Mark loved music, so "MP3" is a fitting name including a "3" with the idea of doing 3 nice things for others in his honor. The community's generosity to the MP3 campaign raised \$10,000, and Ward Lumber matched the first \$2,500, bringing the campaign's total to \$12,500 raised for Naomi and Luke's education.

The Sidney J. Ward Sr. Scholarship was established in 1971 as a tribute to Sidney J. Ward Sr. who, while only completing the 8th grade before going to work to support his family, believed in encouraging and promoting education, scholastic achievement and good citizenship. The Scholarship was renamed this year to Sidney J. Ward Sr. and Agnes V. Ward Memorial Scholarship as a tribute to Agnes who passed away earlier this year. Agnes retired as Corporate Treasurer of Ward Lumber after nearly 60 years of service. She was also on the scholarship committee at Ward Lumber and was a big supporter of education.

Ward Lumber is a two-unit lumber and building materials supplier along with hardware, paint and feed with locations in Jay and Malone, NY. One of the largest private employers in Essex County, Ward Lumber manages over 6,000 acres of timberland and operates one of New York State's largest white pine sawmills and planing mills.

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