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At the young age of 6, I watched my parents lives slip away as we became homeless. Trying to find a place to stay, up into all hours of the night walking the town. I began to watch my parents priority's switch to substances and leave me out to dry. In 4th grade, I made the decision to turn them in and place myself into foster care. What had seemed like a lifetime waiting, my grandmother finally got custody of me.

My journey in the softball world has been rather unconventional compared to most. I began playing the sport at the late age of 16, not due to a lack of interest, but a lack of resources. My grandmother had a hard enough time as it was so things like travel expenses, equipment and all it just wasn't something we could afford. One of my friends dad had gotten me to play, buying me a bat, glove and cleats leaving it at my door step without any spoken words. At my first tryout my coach said "I can see you making a top 20 D1 program" and that's all I needed to hear. After that day, I had one vision in mind, that was to change my future, get a scholarship and receive my college degree.

In 2010, I signed my letter of intent to play at Louisiana State University. Sadly a month later, I lost my biggest supporter to stage 4, undiagnosed colon cancer. Her last words were to the nurses in the room "hey, you know my granddaughter is going to LSU to play softball" I was so embarrassed. After I heard the news, my heart was broken, my dreams felt shattered and I questioned why I would continue to fight if I had no one to make proud.

Well, in the end I needed to hear those words from her. I graduated high school and went to LSU just like she wanted me to. Four years later, I graduated college with a 3.9 GPA. I looked up and told her "I did it". She for sure was there watching me every step of the way.

According to studies, 10% of children placed in Forster care end up applying for college and 3% actually graduate with a

degree. I am proud to say that I am one of the 3% that fought through adversity, continued with determination and kept moving forward towards my goals. My diploma is an example of all of the support and love I received over the years from my College Coaches, travel teams, teammates and friends.

Today, I'm the proud owner of, Real Time College Recruiting (RTCR) a multi- use site which allows college coaches and players to connect and stay in touch during showcase & camp events. It also allows College Coaches to plan their trip ahead of time, with searching capabilities that allow coaches to find the players that are the right fit at the showcase or camp they're attending. Instantly find out how many players they have an opportunity to recruit, where and what time they can find them is all readily available on their mobile device..No paper, No pencils, No direct communication. All electronic. Print out the profiles they need after the event, saving time and money. Now, players can Showcase themselves at a higher level, knowing it doesn't matter what team or what fields you're on, a coach can find you.

My company Real Time College Recruiting will be giving 10% of all proceeds to the Tammy V Foundation. My goal with this company and my foundation was to help assist as many players as i can in hopes that families and children who need it the most know they have support. Kids should not have to struggle to participate. This sport has given me unmeasurable character, discipline, responsibility, determination and drive to succeed. Every kid should have the opportunity to experience and grow through this amazing sport.

“Our greatest successes in life are often found in helping others succeed. Our most lasting and fulfilling achievements are often earned by helping others fulfill theirs”. “It's not about where you start, it's about where you finish.”