**PAGEANT SPEECH**

**FOR**

**MARY CARVALHO**

Hello everyone! I would like to take a moment to thank our distinguished panel of judges for giving my fellow contestants and me the chance to speak tonight. Being here at the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County Fair is **MAGIC**!! You can feel the excitement in the air. The atmosphere is vibrant with the energy of hope and possibility.... Every guest present has a chance to be a winner.... **(Name 2 or 3 of the events**) and whether it's the possibility of placing in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ competition (**name one of the livestock or farming events**) or demonstrating skills at the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ booth, we are united in believing in the magic and power of being a winner.

Magic is defined as "the power of apparently influencing the course of events by using supernatural or mysterious forces." It's wonderful to believe that there is "something out there" that guides our fortune, but in my experience.... And yes, I am only 16 years old, I have found that the real definition of magic involves lots of hard work, dedication, focus, and truly believing in yourself. Someone who **REALLY** knows about perseverance is General Colin Powell. On this subject he has said, "A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work." There are champions in sports as well as incredibly successful leaders in business and government who all seem to have one thing in common... They appear to be winners in all that they do. The reality is that they are diligent and relentless in the pursuit of their goals. Someone once defined success as "getting up one more time than you fall down." In my young life I have learned what it means to not give up, to strive for a goal, and to pick myself up and try again if I fail. The truth is that we learn just as much if not more from our failures.... **(If you want to make a joke you can say this with enthusiasm**).... But before you jump to any conclusions, I would like to let you know that this scholarship prize is something I will put to **VERY** good use!!! No need for me to practice getting up and brushing myself off for **THIS** challenge!!! **(And wait for the laugh**).

I want to thank all of you in the judging committee for giving us the opportunity to compete for this scholarship. We are coming of age in a time where the stakes are constantly being raised and where she... or he who has the focus and chance to prove that determination to succeed will be the ones responsible for the future of our community. The real magic lies in believing in ourselves and our capabilities, with the intention of learning as much as we can to support our lives in the future. Having the honor of winning this scholarship will mean so much to me... In this world we live in the need for education cannot be overstated and I intend to learn and use my lessons well.

I want to thank you in advance for demonstrating your faith in me.... So far... And I look forward to having the chance to use this scholarship to its fullest benefit as my guide to the magic and choices of a positive tomorrow for all of us. Thank you all!