



Abby Barrett and Owliver

Friends of Union County Library Award \$500 Scholarship

Union County High School Senior Abigail (Abby) Barrett was recently informed that her essay on how books have impacted her life was the Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL) winner of a \$500 scholarship. Abby plans to attend Berry College next fall. Here is an excerpt from her essay:

“Books have deeply shaped my life, worldview, and dreams. Growing up, my mom read chapter books to me every night, including the *Little House* Series. Those stories sparked my imagination and taught me powerful lessons about perseverance and resilience. Visiting the place Laura Ingalls Wilder once lived made those lessons real and showed me that humble beginnings do not limit future success.

When I was eight, I read *Who Says Woman Can't Be Doctors? The Story of Elizabeth Blackwell*. Her determination to become the first female doctor, despite being told she couldn't, inspired me. Her story sparked my interest in medicine and motivated me to pursue my dream of becoming a veterinarian so I can help both animals and people.

Through these books, I learned that hard work, courage, and determination can overcome obstacles. Reading has shaped who I am today and continues to guide who I hope to become.”

FOUCL's mascot, Owliver, FOUCL members, and especially the scholarship committee members (Joan Dorogi, Cathy Dalton, and Mary Ellen Watz) congratulated Abby on her blind-judged win and were happy to meet her at a recent meeting. We hope reading continues to propel and inspire Abby and we wish her a rewarding college experience.



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