



Lauren & Caitlin Brady were each diagnosed with alopecia areata (an autoimmune disease that causes hair loss) while in high school. It was often a struggle to deal with, but they always remained as positive as they could- yet never spoke too publicly about it.

In January 2011, after watching Miss Delaware 2010, Kayla Martell, take her wig off on National TV and explain she would compete in the 2011 Miss America pageant wearing a wig, as she too had alopecia, Lauren & Caitlin knew they needed to do something to inspire others just as Kayla had done for them.

Just 3 weeks later, on February 12, 2011 "This Is Me" was born as a two and a half minute YouTube PSA. The video was created to not only raise awareness about alopecia, but to try and inspire anyone who faces any adversity.

In January 2012, the Brady sisters began giving scholarships as part of "This Is Me." These college scholarships are awarded to local high school seniors enrolled in college who have displayed leadership skills while having faced adversity of any kind or helped others through adversity. The scholarships are presented in honor of their dear friends Ryan Risco (Peekskill High School Class of 2002) & Cait Chivonne Polhill (Walter Panas High School Class of 2001) who left this world far too soon, but forever instilled in them their support and friendship.

As of 2013, the 'This Is Me Scholarship, Inspired by Ryan Risco & Cait Chivonne Polhill' also offers scholarships nationally to graduating high school seniors in the United States enrolled in college who have/had alopecia.

Since the launch of the 'This Is Me Foundation' a total of 107 scholarships have been presented to those who have been a true inspiration to 'This Is Me.'

[thisismefoundation.com](http://thisismefoundation.com)  
[facebook.com/thisismefoundation](https://facebook.com/thisismefoundation)  
[instagram.com/thisismefndn](https://instagram.com/thisismefndn)  
[twitter.com/thisismefndn](https://twitter.com/thisismefndn)

## ***APPLICATION FOR SCHOLARSHIP - 2023 Program***

**The \$500.00 ‘This Is Me Scholarship Inspired by Ryan Risco & Caitlin Chivonne Polhill’ will be awarded to up to three graduating seniors from each Hendrick Hudson, Peekskill and Walter Panas High Schools who have faced adversity and/or helped others through adversity and are pursuing advanced level education.**

Scholarships are awarded without regard to race, color, creed, religion, gender, disability, or ethnic origin.

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**TELEPHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please submit:**

- a personal statement in describing how you have faced/overcome adversity, or how you have helped someone through adversity
- a resume of your life/school and work experiences
- letter of recommendation from school, work or community sponsor
- college/trade school acceptance letter (winners will have to show proof of commitment to higher level education)

**DEADLINE: MARCH 31, 2023**

TO APPLY: VISIT [THISISMEFOUNDATION.COM](http://THISISMEFOUNDATION.COM)

OR EMAIL COMPLETED APPLICATION TO [INFO@THISISMEFOUNDATION.COM](mailto:INFO@THISISMEFOUNDATION.COM)

**Please note: All applications/statements remain private within the selection committee and cannot be shared outside the committee without consent from the applicant. Applicants can only apply to one ‘This Is Me’ scholarship.**