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Going for the Gold

The Geneva Lakes Family YMCA's income based Financial Assistance program has offered inspiration and encouragement for Elizabeth and her family.

Elizabeth, is a 23-year-old young woman who lives with autism. At the age of 11, she found her love for swimming. Elizabeth's brother, Victor said, "When living with autism it is really important to stay physically active as it helps to release energy and stay focused. Swimming has helped achieve this for Elizabeth."

Elizabeth has only utilized her school's aquatic center. After her recent graduation in December, her family was concerned how she would continue to swim, as she no longer had access to a swimming pool.

"My family was very concerned how we were going to afford a membership at a facility with a pool for Elizabeth. We needed to keep Elizabeth swimming for her health," said Victor.

Elizabeth's family was then introduced to the YMCA. Ivonne, Elizabeth's mother said, "Their lives changed after their first visit! The staff was so welcoming and helpful. We knew the Y is where Elizabeth belonged!" Elizabeth joined in March 2017. Since then, the family visits the Y every day. Elizabeth swims continuous laps as her mother and brother cheer her on from the sidelines offering words of encouragement.

Elizabeth said, "I'm going for the gold!" She is extremely thankful for the support she receives from the Y staff. She said, "I love when I am at the Y, I am surrounded by people who motivate me to do my best. Thank you!" Elizabeth's family is thankful for the caring people at the Y and for the Financial Assistance program. Her experiences will positively impact her life and help her reach her fullest potential.



*"We knew the Y is where Elizabeth belonged," said Elizabeth's mother Ivonne!
(Pictured above left to right: Victor, Ivonne, Elizabeth, and Edolina)*