

# Josie Tripp, scholarship winner, remembers the best days

By Carole Kelly

Josie Tripp, a 2020 Clinton High School graduate and this year's Le Bonté Women's Club scholarship recipient, is focusing on happy highlights rather than thinking about the non-traditional final weeks of her senior year.

"I decided to take a positive attitude about the way our senior year has ended. I want to remember the friendships, the great teachers, my band experience and the other good memories that have gone into my school career," says Tripp. She is now looking forward to moving on to her college days.

One of the many soon-to-be graduates across the country who left school halls for spring break, little realizing the immediate changes that the COVID-19 pandemic would bring, Tripp has opted to remember the best times.

"I plan to study nursing," says Tripp. She attributes the influence of her mother, a teacher, in bringing her to the realization that she wants to care for others. With that goal, she will begin work toward a traditional BSN degree, a "2+2" program that includes two years of course work at the University of Mississippi, with the remaining two years of nursing courses completed on the Medical Center campus in Jackson.

"I plan to become a nurse practitioner and serve as a travel nurse. I hope to become a positive influence on



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Josie Tripp (right), a 2020 Clinton High School graduate, receives congratulations from her grandmother, Dianne Tripp (left). Among her achievements, Tripp is the recipient of this year's Le Bonté Women's Club scholarship.

future patients, as well as my family and friends. I'm claiming my mother's attitude, which is 'I want to be a contributing member of society.'"

In addition to the influence of her family's dedication to community service, Tripp recalls joining the Peer Guidance Committee in ninth grade as another avenue that pointed toward her calling to help others. She admits that joining a variety of clubs during her high school days stretched her limits and her time; but she also enjoyed the feeling of service from memberships, which included the National

Honor Society, Anchor Club, Biology Club, Chemistry Club, First Priority, and Health Occupational Students of America.

Tripp was also recognized earlier this year with a Bishop John Joseph Chanche Award for service, an honor named for the first bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Jackson.

A highlight of school days has been her participation in the band programs, which began in the sixth grade. She was a three-year-member of the Band's Leadership team. Playing the clarinet, she was first chair in the Clinton High

School Band. She was chosen for the Mississippi All-State Lions Band two years, an experience that included the 2019 competition held in conjunction with the Lions Clubs' International Convention in Milan, Italy. Remembering the Italian trip gives Tripp a reason not to dwell on the unprecedented departure from the norm, which resulted in the band's canceled trip to Hawaii in 2020 because of the pandemic.

"We saw Milan, Rome and the Vatican, Florence and the Leaning Tower of Pisa," she smiles.

Tripp joins with her family as they share their musical talents at Holy Savior Catholic Church, First United Methodist Church and St. Catherine's Village in Madison.

Her parents are Toni Canizaro and Ben Tripp. An older sister, Savannah, is a junior at Delta State University; and younger brothers are Levi, a senior at CHS, and Cade, a sophomore.

Tripp's grandmother, Dianne Tripp, observes that her granddaughter, a straight-A student, sets her goals high and determines to be the best at everything she does.

"Members of Le Bonté are proud for Josie Tripp to receive this year's award," said Serena Calhoun, vice president. "We look forward to hearing about her success in the coming years and commend her plans to serve and to make a difference."



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