

Castro-Naoe Family Scholarship in Honor of Nzingha, Nandi, and You

The year is 2020 and the simplicity but necessity of the word KINDNESS is not lost on the donor family. Justin and Maria Crisanta Naoe, having children ages 7 and 3, Chelsea and Hudson, during a 7-month quarantine from a pandemic made it increasingly clear that the only lessons worth teaching the kids at a time of great anxiety is: compassion, empathy, and love. Should the world crumble, there are no regrets when the heart is full of love and concern for fellow human.

The Naoe family resides in Manhattan Beach, California and enjoys traveling the world as much as sitting on their beloved sofa named Fluffy. Justin grew up in Kent, Washington but went to the University of Southern California for undergrad, while Maria Crisanta (Crisa) grew up in Glendale, California and went to UW. There are many arguments about the superior school, with the final word coming from Crisa. Chelsea, almost 8, enjoys beach sports like beach volleyball and surfing, while three-year-old Hudson is just busy with daredevil stunts.

To the recipient of this year's scholarship: we are cheering you on with our loudest voices and strongest prayers. You are as powerful as warrior queens Nzingha and Nandi, and with a softness of the most nurturing of caretakers.