

Megan Cloutier

Contributed by Steve Lapore
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Megan Cloutier was born August 3rd, 1984 at Franklin County Public Hospital to Cherie and Peter Cloutier; Andrew's little sister would grow to have a lioness spirit. She can claim the honor of scholar athlete, having learned to accomplish her goals through 13 years as a girl scout and four years as a two sport athlete at GHS and Western New England College (WNEC). Striving to live up to her role models, her parents and family friends such as Pam Sunderland and Pam Lapierre, Megan sang alto in chorus, worked weekends, and pitched every softball game but one from her sophomore to senior year (2002) at GHS. She liked being busy, working hard, meeting people and challenging herself to do better every day. She gave back to GHS by coordinating yearbook photos, helping to manage the girls' basketball team and representing her classmates on the student council. She struggled in Math but loved English, the reading provided opportunity for learning about various cultures and social issues. While maintaining honor roll grades she was named the defensive player of the year for GHS Field Hockey as they won another Western Mass championship, and reached the State semi-finals. She was a tenacious defender that relished in moments like defeating her Mom's TFHS team as well as arch rivals Frontier and Smith Academy. Her speed, toughness, and commitment to stick-skills landed her on the All Western Mass first team. Her willingness to give 100% and to wear her "heart on her sleeve" are attributes that helped her become a tri-captain in two sports at WNEC. Competing in the North Atlantic Conference (NAC) Megan was Div III All New-England her senior year. Two favorite moments are: scoring the game winning goal against Keene State after playing three overtimes - more than 100 minutes, and WNEC winning the NAC finals versus UMaine-Farmington in 2005. Megan graduated in 2006 with a degree in criminal justice, working her way through college as a security guard at Franklin Medical Center (FMC) and as kitchen staff, a job she stayed committed to for over six years. She was the assistant field hockey coach at Amherst College before taking a full-time position with a human service agency in Greenfield as a residential counselor for boys. She learned to help others through her coursework at WNEC; her favorite professor taught a course in "criminal investigations" that required research into real crimes, which led to a teaching assistantship as a junior and senior and an internship with juvenile probation officers the summer before her junior year. Counseling teenage boys is challenging, yet at the moment very rewarding, as thoughts of graduate school tantalize her imagination, inspiring Megan to work long hours to pay off her college loans so she can pursue her love of learning. Her parents taught her to enjoy learning, to develop a way to be of service, and live with grace by responding to the needs of others. There is no doubt they instilled in her a will to serve, an ability to work hard, and the capacity to be compassionate. Megan Cloutier is an accomplished graduate of GHS that is a role model for all citizens, especially for a young girl aspiring to be scholar, athlete or both. Fun Facts about Megan: + loves ice cream - any kind, oh and steak w/ BBQ sauce - lots of it + loves music - all kinds, particularly songs by Christina Aguilera - because of the soulful lyrics and her natural range of voice, "she has a set of pipes" + Movies: action, drama and the "girlie ones" too: Favs: Freedom Writers and A League of their Own + Authors: Greg Isles, Patricia Cornwell, Dan Brown, Jodi Picoult, "to name a few" + She yearns for more time with friends and family

Some of Megan's favorite quotes: "Have patience with everything that remains unsolved in your heart. Try to love the questions themselves, like locked rooms and like books written in a foreign language. Do not now look for the answers. They cannot now be given to you because you could not live them. It is a question of experiencing everything. At present you need to live the question. Perhaps you will gradually, without even noticing it, find yourself experiencing the answer, some distant day." - unknown "She has a light and a faith that won't die, she has a heart of a lion and the will to survive." - Hootie & the Blowfish lyrics "It's weird to think about how different your life would be if you never met the people who changed it" - unknown