

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

We are writing you this letter on behalf of Yukon High School inviting you to take part in our newest tradition known as MILL Week. MILL (Millers Improving Local Lives) is the new face and name our community's philanthropy week that takes place at the high school. Previously known as WISH Week, our goal was to bring back a sense of community and outreach to the great city of Yukon.

It is our mission to bring together "Yukon's BEST" to help someone in need. MILL Week is a week to promote community growth and prosperity. No better thing in town best represents this quite like our famous flour mill. Though not still in working order, the mill represents the hard working, dedicated community members that helped put Yukon, Oklahoma on the map. These ideals are something that our students take seriously and continually search for ways to better not only the lives of the person next to them, but the lives of our town as a whole. In order to meet our mission and provide the services we deem fit for our recipient, we rely heavily on the generosity of the individuals and businesses of Yukon and surrounding areas for support. Without the assistance of community-minded individuals just like you, we wouldn't be able to serve those in our community each year.

Let me tell you a story about an incredible family. A family with heart and a dream—to show the community around them that "Every Creation Matters". This year we have been blessed with the opportunity to meet Tessa Bynum and her family. A student in the LIFE program at Parkland Elementary, Tessa is everyone's favorite ray of sunshine. Her father, Darin Bynum, is a Math teacher at Yukon Middle School. Her mom, Whitney, worked for Sandpiper Energy, but was laid off a few years ago when they went through massive cuts and now works from home. Tessa also has two brothers, Parker and Weston, who love her dearly and are a big source of her smiles and giggles.

Tessa was diagnosed in 2010 with Congenital CMV, a virus that has caused severe brain damage affecting the functions and development of her body. Tessa has very limited mobility and uses a wheelchair. Even despite her challenges, the family still seeks happiness and hope every day of their life—this is summarized beautifully in a blog post by her mother, Whitney:

"Our journey includes epilepsy, cerebral palsy, bilateral profound hearing loss and cortical visual impairment. But more than these things...it involves God's immeasurable grace and provision of strength in our lives. Tessa teaches us more and more every day about love, laughter, and living life with the joy she has in her heart."

The beauty of this family comes, however, from the passion they have for those around them. Rather than asking for financial support to purchase supplies and equipment that would adhere to the family's physical needs of Tessa's growth and transport, the family rather asks that you stand beside them on their journey to create something bigger than themselves. It is our hope that you would join the Bynum family in their journey to follow their dream of creating a non-profit known as "Every Creation Matters". This would be a fully accessible and inclusive pottery studio that would allow any and ALL types of families to come participate, laugh, and make memories. Their goal is for all people to seek and understand that "Not only that every creation of art matters, but each one of God's creations matters." Whether you are old or young, weak or strong, walking in or rolling in, you have the freedom and ability to be 100% YOU at this studio.

It is our goal, with your help, to create a platform for Tessa and her family's dream to become a reality. We ask that you make a commitment to support our annual appeal by making any type of donation. As the family has stated, anything and everything helps—and beyond donations they are just excited to see their favorite girl be in the spotlight and raise awareness for this cause. We hope that you know that your generosity can and will make a difference in our community. Thank you for being "Yukon's BEST!"

Sincerely,  
MILL Week Staff



The Bynum Family

**Donations:**

- Any and all donations can either be picked up by a MILL Week representative or mailed to the following address:

**Yukon High School  
Attn: MILL Week  
1777 Yukon Parkway  
Yukon, OK, 73099**

- Checks can be made payable to “Yukon MILL Week”
- You can also make donations at the following site:

<https://payments.efundsforschools.com/.../campai.../2020MillWeek>

- Any and all receipts will be tendered for any taxable deductions and any additional receipts can be requested
- If you have any questions, concerns, rants, or raves, you can contact:

**Jamie Tate  
MILL Week Director  
[Jamie.tate@yukonps.com](mailto:Jamie.tate@yukonps.com)  
(405)-919-8377**