Coast Lines
CAPITOLA

Student wins ‘Live Your Dream’ award

Soroptimist International of Capitola-By-The-Sea has selected Jessica Starkes, a student at Cabrillo College, as a winner of the “Live Your Dream” Award for a woman who is the primary financial support of her family using higher education to achieve her goals.

At the awards dinner in March, she will receive $2,000, which can be used for any costs associated with higher education, including books, child care and transportation.

Starkes, of Watsonville, overcame multigenerational addiction, domestic abuse, homelessness, depression and the death of a child before she was able to complete her GED, allowing her to enroll at Cabrillo and pursue her dream of becoming a social worker.

A single mother, she carries a 3.64 grade point average, works more than 30 hours a week and volunteers.

She expects to transfer to a four-year university to complete her degree.

— Sentinel Staff report