To whom it may concern,

I would like to nominate my wife, Ashley Williams, for the Lasik for Teachers contest. She is the Art teacher at Deer Point Elementary in Bay County.

Every year, Ashley spends a few months on a clay project for each grade level. She loves teaching these lessons, because most of her students will never get a chance to use this material outside of her classroom. However, she has a *severe* allergy to mold, and clay naturally grows mold very quickly. Its an unavoidable aspect of the material, regardless of how long its kept or how it is stored.

What that means for Ashley is that she spends an entire grading period every year with a severe sinus infection from being surrounded by clay dust all day.

She has worn glasses for 26 years, and contact lenses for the past 15 years. She enjoys the convenience of contact lenses, but they can also irritate her allergies if she wears them too often (especially during clay projects and during spring and summer months). She also has astigmatism, which makes wearing contacts uncomfortable for an entire day.

Lasik surgery would be a great benefit for Ashley. This surgery would allow her to enjoy the convenience of not wearing glasses, without having to deal with her contact lenses setting off her allergies.

Ashley is not the type to complain, and regardless of whether she is sick or healthy, stressed or relaxed, happy or sad, she has the same smile on her face and the same desire to help others. She is always eager to put the needs of others first, and I would love to see her recognized for this selfless quality.

Thank you all for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Chris Williams