

2025 Jodi Brookhart Award Recipient

Luisa Grier

Luisa began her swim journey in 2023, shortly after joining the Grier family and moving to the United States from Colombia. Her early life was filled with obstacles. After surviving a life-threatening illness as a baby, Luisa became deaf. Without access to the resources she needed, she was unable to develop language for the first eight years of her life. But from the very beginning, Luisa has faced every challenge with courage and determination.

After arriving in the U.S., she began learning American Sign Language—opening the door to connection, confidence, and self-expression.

Luisa has always felt at home in the water. Becoming part of the Willowhaven Wave gave her not only a team, but a sense of belonging and a place to shine.

Now in her third season, she has learned all four strokes, competed in championship meets each year, and become one of the team's most enthusiastic cheerleaders. Even in a fast-paced, high-energy environment where communication can be challenging, Luisa listens with her eyes, leads with her heart, and brings joy to every practice and meet. She's a fierce competitor who never loses sight of the fun.

This summer, Luisa underwent surgery to receive bilateral cochlear implants—an exciting but major step in her journey. And true to form, she refused to let recovery keep her from doing what she loves. Just twelve days after surgery, Luisa will compete at championships—determined to show up for her team and herself with the same courage and joy she brings to everything she does.

And swimming is only part of the story...



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Luisa is also a passionate and accomplished gymnast. Earlier this year, she and her team won a national championship—an incredible feat for any athlete, and especially remarkable for someone who competes without hearing the music or verbal coaching. She moves through the world with focus, intuition, and an unstoppable spirit. Luisa is kind, funny, and wise beyond her years. She lifts up everyone around her with her energy, encouragement, and courage. She's the reason many of her teammates have learned their first ASL signs—and the one you'll always see dancing behind the blocks or cheering for someone else's race.



The Willowhaven Wave is proud of the 2025 DSSL Jodi Brookhart Award Winner Luisa. She embodies the courage, resilience, and heart that this award represents, and reminds us all of the power of showing up—just as you are—and giving it your all!

