

## **Ariyah Taylor – Corryville Catholic – Mount Notre Dame High School**

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It all started when I was about 9 ½ months years old. I was rushed to Cincinnati Children's Hospital and I had to stay in ICU for a couple of days because I became ill and I had a seizure and eventually stopped breathing. After a lot of testing, I was diagnosed with a seizure disorder and had to start taking a seizure medication twice daily to try to control the seizures. I had to visit the Neurologist regularly. In going to the doctors, this became my fear because I would have tests and they would have to draw blood which I remember being challenge but, I am grateful and I thank God to be alive. Over the years, I had several seizures but, I have been 5 years seizure free and I have been off the seizure medication for a year as of today. So many people cared and showed me so much love but, I thank God for my mother loving me so much because she truly was my biggest supporter. Although I still have some challenges but, to be able to tell my story lets me know I am here for a reason and now it's time to share the blessings God has given me with others because God has truly been so good to me.

Education is important and it's my responsibility to make sure that I am prepared, that I participate and ready to learn to achieve my goals I have for myself. I am 13 years old and an eighth grader at Corryville Catholic where I have been attending for 11 years starting at Preschool. Corryville continues to help me learn, grow and understand how important it is to bless others by giving back. There are many ways in which you can help and give back and make a difference in the lives of others. I have affected people in my life from school, family, and church by giving of my time to others. Time is a great way to give back because it gives hope and make others feel and know that they are special and that anything is possible as long as you believe.

While at Corryville, I participate or have participated in many activities from Big Sisters and Little Sisters Program, Girls on the Run, Art Club, Chess Club, Spanish Club, School Choir, Homework Club, and Track and Field. Whatever I join, I commit myself to the very end and I make sure I don't miss any practices. I really enjoy playing Volleyball in which I have been playing for 4 years now. Volleyball helps me to understand the value of team work and how working together we can build a better and stronger team. Volleyball also continues to build my confidence and self-esteem while developing friendship. This past season I sprain my ankle towards the end of the regular season and I couldn't play in the tournament. Although I was not able to continue on to play, I still continued to attend the games to support and cheer my teammates on each game. This helped my teammates feel good and play harder and helped me feel like I was still part of the team even while cheering from the side on the bench.

I also was part of the Leadership Scholars program and now I am an eighth grade leader for Corryville Catholic Student Health Council. I believe leadership is about love and helping others while helping your own self. I am helping make my school be a healthy place to be and learn. I work with the group to come up with ideas to involve students and their families to participate in the events in order to continue to build and keep that school and parent partnership. Recently, I walked around the community with

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the group passing out flyers to invite them to our Family Fun Night Event. This was a good way to try to start building relationships between our school and the community. Also, I participate every year in the World's Finest Chocolate Fundraiser to help to continue to improve the quality of our school programs.

I truly believe the first teaching does starts at home. When you help your own family, it just comes naturally to want to help others. I have an 87 year old great-grandmother who had a stroke before I was even born and almost died. She had to basically start all over to learn how to bathe, talk, feed herself and walk. She initially had to use a wheel chair, but now she uses a walker to get around. When I was little I use to watch my mother provide care and do many things for her because she couldn't do many things by herself without help. Now that I am a little older, I help her read labels on the things that she wants. I help my mother go grocery shopping and pick out clothing for her to wear. I cook some things for her and I help her in and out the car whenever she goes with us. My great-grandmother loves to talk and the most enjoyable thing she really likes is when I just sit and talk with her. Even though I am her great grand-daughter, I am also her friend to talk to whenever she needs me.

At my church, the youth leaders always find opportunities for us to volunteer or participate in some type of outreach in order to give back and affect the lives of others. I enjoy helping others and not just within my family and around school, but to those who I don't know. I volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House with the youth department at my church. I served meals, greeted people with warm hugs and smiles. It was amazing to see how happy and thankful they were and that put a smile on my face knowing that I impacted lives in their time of need. While at the Ronald McDonald House, I wasn't just serving food, but I was getting to know children and families who were living with some serious health conditions. It's always a blessing to make others feel good. I'm not a person who only thinks of my needs, but I love to help and care for others. My purpose was to give back and make a difference in someone's life that day. I know I did just that from talking with them and you could see the joy in their eyes as they said thank-you.

I will always take time out to give back to help make a difference in the lives of others in order to help people feel better. I'm glad I had the chance to visit high schools because I learned they provide many opportunities for community service and I plan to continue my giving back throughout my high school experience. God wants us to give back and help others and when we do, we allow God to use us to do what He created us to do and we make life worth living. It doesn't matter how old you are, you can still give back and be a blessings to others.

It is an honor and a blessing to be considered for the Aubrey Rose Foundation Scholarship. If awarded, it would be awesome and I would be the first recipient to be awarded the scholarship from Corryville Catholic School. Also, by receiving the scholarship will help towards the next phase of my journey in continuing my Catholic Education on to High School. Thank-you for given me the opportunity to be considered.