



2011 Scholarship Application

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Bradley

Murphy

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

Hello my name is Brad Murphy. I am currently an eighth grader at St. Dominic School, however next year I will be attending Elder High School. I realize that it is the little things that matter. Whether it is smiling to someone in the hallways at school, holding the door open, or volunteering to help out a teacher or neighbor; every little thing matters.

For many years my grandpa has had a kidney disease. He has been on dialysis for years and just received a kidney transplant last summer. My grandpa never misses any sporting event that I participate in. Even when he was very sick, he still found the energy to make it to my games. When he was in the hospital, I would visit him and we would talk about the games he missed. I was told that this is what helped him recover. He wanted to get out of the hospital so he could see me play. Since he received his transplant, my grandpa has not been allowed to do various chores around the house that he is used to doing. My family pitched in to get everything done so that he could focus on recovering. I don't think he minded the help, and he enjoyed the company.

When I was 12 years old my neighbor was diagnosed with cancer. During this time her husband passed away suddenly. She grieved over her loss and as winter approached I decided she needed a friend. One day there was a sizeable snow fall and I shoveled my driveway for my dad. When I finished, I walked to her house and shoveled her snow. After shoveling her snow, she tried to pay me twenty dollars. I refused to accept the money, only to find it in my mailbox later. I would then put the money back into her mailbox. This continued every time I shoveled her snow that winter. During that winter we became close. She would come out and talk to me while I shoveled her snow. The following summer, after several months of battling cancer, she passed away. I felt that I had lost not only a neighbor but a friend.

I was unable to play football for St. Dominic this year because of my weight. Although I couldn't play in the games, I helped the team prepare for games by attending practices and volunteering to be their water boy during games. My friend, Evan, also struggled to make weight each week. The weeks he was overweight, I ran with him to encourage him to lose weight. I didn't realize what a difference this made to him until he thanked me during his speech at the football banquet. After St. Dominic home games I would stay after the games to help clean up the field.

At school I am a member of Student Council. Through student council, I have helped collect books for the Babies Milk Fund Project. During the holiday season, we help collect food for Saint Vincent DePaul. I also volunteer as a Eucharistic Minister and server. This is important to me because I am thankful for everything I have and want to show my thanks by volunteering for my parish.

Because both my parents work full time, I have been given a lot of responsibility. I help my mom clean the house and do the laundry, and help my dad by cutting the grass. I also strive to be a



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good role model for my brother. I help him with his homework and have coached him in basketball. Unlike some brothers, we tend to get along.

William James once said, "I will act as if what I do makes a difference." This is a quote that I try to live by. The things I do can make a big difference in people lives. The little things are things like smiling to someone you see in the hallway or saying hello to a stranger. It is these little things that make a difference in someone's life.