

Dear Aubrey Rose Foundation, thank you for considering my scholarship application.

Over the years, I have helped others in various different ways, both big and small. One of the main things that I have done is try to help everyone, regardless of who they are. That includes defending my friends against bullies, and occasionally helping the bullies themselves with personal issues. There are several times that I have done this, though there are two main instances.

The second time I experienced bullying I was in second grade. I treated this situation differently than the first time I dealt with bullying, because the bully seemed to have personal problems. This time I did in fact ask the bully why they were being cruel to my friends. I learned that the bully's parents were in the process of divorce, and she often transferred schools. This left her with no friends once she transferred to my school, and she became very jealous of other people. Hence why she began to bully them. Once I learned about her unfortunate situation, I began to become friends with her. For a period of about a month, I spent as much time as I could at school with the girl talking to her, helping her make friends, and supporting her during the difficult time. After I began to hang out with the girl, she stopped bullying people and became very friendly. Sadly, she moved part way through the school year, but she was happy.

The last, and most recent experience with bullying is one that lasted a very long time. I have done gymnastics my entire life, and during my competitive gymnastics experience, I met a person who was not so nice. I met this person when I was moved up to level 3. This girl was the first person on the level three team that I talked to. I spoke to the girl before practice and then again before vault. Our second conversation was casual and perfectly normal, when the girl ran off crying. On bars, I was approached by three of my new teammates, who looked furious. They repeated to me what the girl had told them. The girl had said something along the lines of, "She made fun of me because I was adopted." I was completely shocked. I told the girls that I had barely talked to her, and wasn't even aware that she was adopted. Later I found out that the girl I had been talking to had pulled similar tricks before. She'd tried to turn the team against me before I even knew them. This was only the beginning though.

Over the four years I competed with this girl, she hurt my friends physically and mentally. She often mocked us, gossiped behind our backs, and once even kicked two of my friends. Over the years she did everything she could to drive us apart and split our team, nothing ever worked. I never had to ask if the rumors girl spread were true, because I knew that none of us would ever betray each other. Regardless of what the girl did, everyone was still kind and supportive of her, and treated her like any other teammate.

Veering away from the topic of bullying, there is service. I have always loved to contribute to my community in any way that I can. There are various services that I have participated in throughout my life, including the American Girl fashion show that the Aubrey Rose Foundation holds. I participated in this show every year when I was very young. This was my introduction to service, and I very much enjoyed it. I was a model in the fashion show for around three years, and enjoyed knowing that the money spent for entering went to people in need.

Another thing that I have done is help out at my father's business. Over the years, I have volunteered to help out with special events at his gym, and do the jobs many people would prefer not to. For example, I am often in charge of babysitting the younger siblings of the children during showcases. The gym offers to let the siblings play in the playground part of the gym called Go-Play. Naturally, there has to be someone to watch them, and that is usually me. The first time that I was given this job I was twelve and I had one person working with me. I gave them the easier of the two jobs. She worked the top three levels, while I worked the bottom level where the majority of kids were. Out of the nearly thirty five children there, I was taking care of around twenty toddlers. Throughout the three hours this lasted, I guided children from Go-Play to their parents outside, took children to the bathroom, and kept them all entertained. I also managed to avoid letting any children get hurt or lost. All in all, I managed to work together with my friend despite the difficult circumstances and keep everything in check.

I also participated in Girl Scouts for six years. My Girl Scout troupe was very focused on helping others, and making a difference in communities. We did things like help out a peanut butter ministries, and Matthew 25 ministries. We visited Peanut Butter Ministries several times, and helped with various different tasks. Something else we did to benefit people who didn't live in our community was raise money for a foundation called Building Blocks for Kids. We chose a little girl, and raised money for her medical treatment. I also helped us to find a place to set up our booth so we could raise money. We ended up exceeding our goal. We donated all of the money we raised to the girl's family and got to meet the girl that we raised money for. Seeing that family so happy is something I'll never forget.

As far as volunteering to help our home community, the activity we did the most was help out at the shu center. At school, we have had several clothing and canned food drives for the Schu center that our troupe organized. We all advertised as much as possible to bring in attention for the drives and often managed to rake in huge bags full of clothing, hygiene products, and food. Another way that we often helped out in our community was through nursing homes. We were pen pals with several of the nursing home residents, and often were there during the holidays to help share cheer with them

when their relatives couldn't be. After I left Girl Scouts, I still tried to help out at nursing homes. Last year I took to paying piano for the nursing home residents as a form of entertainment for them. Many of the residents at the nursing home I play at don't get to leave, and they have the same activities year round, so it feels wonderful to see the smiles on their faces when I play. I have continued to play for them, and love to help keep them happy.

I also usually go out of my way to find charity organizations to donate too. One year, I requested that each of my friends, rather than bringing a birthday present to bring a children's toy. I had decided that I was going to donate all of the toys to an organization called Toys for Tots. Many of my friends brought in more than one gift, and I also purchased several gifts to donate to the charity. A few other examples of charities that I often enjoy working to support are Project Christmas Child and Pasta for Pennies.

The final service is one that I hope to participate in in the future, and the support of ARF would definitely help me to achieve that dream. At school, I have participated in an after school club by the name of Power of the Pen. Power of the Pen is a writing association that holds competitions across the United States. This activity has helped me to discover not only my love for writing, but also my ability to sway the emotions of others through my writing. I often find that my writing influences others to believe more in themselves, and I would like to use this ability to make a positive influence. Society can be cruel and many people, including teens my age, face the struggle of meeting impossibly high standards our society has set. I have heard many stories about people who gave up on themselves because they felt that they would never be good enough because of the unrealistic expectations. I know several people who have felt like this. I want to change the world not through violence or through money, but through words. I have heard the saying actions speak louder than words, but I feel that writing is a different matter entirely. I want to use my writing abilities to help encourage people to be themselves, and to know that they are not alone. To me, writing is my chance to help others, and to spread the word that everyone is unique. But, I need a good education that my family can afford in order to achieve this, and to help others through my stories.

Everyone has helped another person at one point or another, but many of them only do it on the side. I want to dedicate my life to helping other people, and make the world a more accepting place to live in in my own special way. I might just be a teenager, but that doesn't make my ability to help others any less than an adult. It just means that I'll need some help. I have the support of my family, my friends, and my peers, and I would like to ask for yours.