

**Piper Patterson – St. Cecilia Middle School – Holy Cross High School, Page 1 of 6**

I'm hopeful that I have made a positive impact on the lives around me since I believe God made me to be an instrument of peace and role model to others, much like your sweet angel, Aubrey Rose. Learning about your amazing foundation in honor of Aubrey's great light, I'm reminded of my kindhearted cousin Mason Pitzer. He was born March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1999, and nearly drown in a swimming pool when he was just 2 years old. Miraculously, my Godmother (Mason's Mom), Aunt Tiffany brought Mason back to life with CPR. Mason was airlifted to Cincinnati Children's Hospital to receive further treatment for his near drowning accident. Because of the oxygen deprivation, Mason suffered neurological damage which left him unable to speak, walk, eat, or drink by mouth. He is categorized to this day as a non-verbal quadriplegic and has a j-feeding tube which requires 24/7 nursing care. My cousin is special needs but isn't defined by his disability since he truly is differently abled. Thanks to the wonderful Doctors and Staff at Children's Hospital, Mason has probably saved thousands of lives as we continue to share the story of his accident daily so that no one else must experience the same difficult turn of events on a loved one's life. Through the 'Everyone Counts' Program, Mason teaches others patience, resilience, kindness, and he is living proof that miracles do exist. I only wish more people could meet my cousin Mason since he has so greatly affected my life which has inspired me to positively affect all those around me.

The biggest lesson he taught me is that differences are made to be celebrated and, in a world where you can choose to be anything, choose to be kind. I have a love for inclusivity and promote Anti-Bullying through my actions and Grand Champion

## **Piper Patterson – St. Cecilia Middle School – Holy Cross High School, Page 2 of 6**

award winning 4H speech on B.R.A.V.E. which stands 'Building Respect And Values for Everyone.' The response to this platform was so great that I started my own YouTube channel through 'Book it To B.R.A.V.E.' where I read one story each night live on social media in effort to spread the message and reach more peers in hopes of inspiring others to change the world one community service act a time because as motivated by my English teacher Mrs. Mackison: "Readers make Leaders!" I try to live by the golden rule and treat others the way I would like to be treated. I know that God made me in his image and likeness, and I realize through service opportunities with my School, Church, Family and Community, I get to know Him, love Him, and serve Him daily.

I get to know God by volunteering at School and Church. After school, I offer to read to the daycare and ECLC students at St. Cecilia. This time helps the teachers and the younger students that look up to me as a good Catholic, competitive athlete, student leader and an academic honor roll student each trimester. I love communication and I have a high regard for cultural diversity, so I have been teaching American Sign Language this past year in hopes of being an ASL interpreter one day. I'm passionate with a purpose and as Student Government President I have also introduced a Sign Language Club beginning with our St. Cecilia Middle School Students first per our dedicated Principal, Mrs. Kathman. I very much enjoy volunteering to sing and sign the National Anthem at local schools and sporting events and have the utmost respect for our Military especially since both of my parents are Active Duty US Army Veterans. I have recently started collaborating with The Barracks Project.Org and completed a

## **Piper Patterson – St. Cecilia Middle School – Holy Cross High School, Page 3 of 6**

Think Global Act Local mission where I repotted and donated over 30 succulent house plants to Military Veterans living at Welcome House for eco-therapy. 'Piper's Potted Plants' are great listeners, and I was honored to give back and support the lives that fought for ours.

I also practice my faith when I serve at Mass and read petitions at St. Cecilia Church. I'm helping Ms. Deters and Father Harry by frequently volunteering. As a Serra Club Recipient, serving makes me feel closer to God, my Church, and my family while I am learning more about Christ and his teachings. When I read aloud, I know that I'm really helping students (like my younger brother Kayden) to hear the word of the Lord. I am also the only 8<sup>th</sup> grader who volunteers to sing in the Church Choir at St. Cecilia's. I know Mr. Heffernan and Mrs. Wells are very appreciative of my leadership, encouragement, and can-do attitude. It is these attributes which earned me the gracious scholarships (St. Vincent DePaul Society Scholarship 2019; both 2020 & 2021 recipient of The Good Citizen Scholarship), to help me financially remain academically enrolled and attend Middle School at St. Cecilia School in Independence, KY.

Grateful as ever, I can love God by loving others. As Junior Miss Earth USA 2022, I have a respect for the environment and all God's creation, so I hold a pet food drive annually with family and donate to animal shelters for 'Happy Howl-O-Ween.' I also host park cleanups and recently cleared debris on the Anderson Ferry Riverbanks of the mighty Ohio for World Cleanup Day. 'Piper's Pollinators to the Rescue' helps identify Pollinator Habitat Zones reminding Kentucky to Keep it Green & Clean! I love

my hometown of Independence, KY where we currently have over 5 Pollinator Habitat Zones. That number is growing with each petition of land parcel brought forth to our local legislators. These designated gardens serve as way stations to the Monarch Butterfly during fall migration, which is critical in producing the necessary resources for successful journey. This Protection Plan is also helpful to over 90 crops in the U.S., including many fruits and vegetables grown here in Kentucky such as apples, strawberries, peaches, pumpkins, melons, and canola, all of which are dependent on insect pollinators such as bees for reproduction. Thanks to my science teacher Mr. Mains, I continue to encourage all to visit Kentucky Department of Agriculture for more information on how they can get involved and help save the bees!

I love organizing groups to make the largest of impacts! Since age six, I created 'Birthday Beneficiaries' where I host my June birthday parties with friends to collect and receive donated gifts for The Ronald McDonald House Charities of Cincinnati. I'm hopeful that my efforts can make patients feel better in their stay and ultimate recovery. I also manage 'Piper's Pop-Tops with a Purpose,' where I place collection containers at various locations for members of the community to drop off their aluminum pull tabs from cans. I then take the monthly batches to both The Ronald McDonald House Charities of Cincinnati and Bluegrass to be donated and weighed. Last haul was over 8 pounds and thanks to my math teacher Mrs. Mitchell, I've set a goal for 10 pounds on the next one – I know we CAN do it! These collection efforts contribute to the thousands of dollars raised each year by the program to keep critically ill children and their families together. The Ronald McDonald House will always have a special place in

**Piper Patterson – St. Cecilia Middle School – Holy Cross High School, Page 5 of 6**

my heart since my Lexington, KY cousin Bennett Lester stayed here while she was receiving cancer treatment after her diagnosis at age two until she sadly passed away just before her fourth birthday. I remember visiting her and seeing the other loving families staying at RMHC, and wanting to do something more but was limited to volunteering because of my young age. 'Birthday Beneficiaries' and 'Piper's Pop-Tops with a Purpose' were only the beginning. In 5<sup>th</sup> grade I helped create a service group 'Beads for Needs' where we would meet before school and craft rainbow loom bracelets for sale. All proceeds were donated to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in hopes of finding a cure and ending childhood cancer forever. I respectfully continue this service to this day and have expanded to include mask lanyards as a recent innovation thanks to my art teacher Ms. Kohl.

I know I can serve God by serving others. Being Miss Kentucky Junior High School America 2021, I enjoy being of service to my community and I have created my own personal campaign titled 'Piper's Operation Share a Smile.' I collect Personal Care Products and Dental Care Items, because COVID-19 has impacted donations to local shelters and charities all over the Tri-State area. We have successfully distributed over 20,000 items collected and we still have far to go! Additional response to COVID-19 needs, I put my 4H President production skills to task by forming 'Sewing the Seeds of Love' crafting group in 2019 where we continue to make reusable masks for donation to Frontline and Healthcare Workers in response to the Global Pandemic. My other community service efforts this year include: Cold Weather Coat Collection, Blanket Bins

**Piper Patterson – St. Cecilia Middle School – Holy Cross High School, Page 6 of 6**

for Homeless Shelters, Hosted Food Drives (Rose Garden Mission/E-Shelter NKY), Toys for Tots / Christmas Reading Events / Toys for Kids / Steinfeld Toy Foundation, Catholic Schools Week Educator, Nursing Home Needs, Everybody Counts / Water Safety Instruction, Project Gratitude (sending candy to troops overseas), Jeans for Teens, Seasonal Soccer Lineman Volunteer (Gold Medalist Striker on the All-Girls SCS Bluegrass Soccer Tournament State Team), Aftercare Homework Helper, Youth Cheer Mentor (I'm a 6-time Summit National Competitive Cheerleading Championship Finalist), American Heart Association Jump Rope Challenge, March of Dimes March Madness Basketball Challenge (As a Power Forward on both my School & Select Basketball Teams), and 101 Hearts for Veterans as inspired by my social studies teacher Mr. Kennedy.

These experiences are not only helping me develop now but will be fundamental in my relationship with Christ as I grow older. By learning about Jesus daily and following in his footsteps, I know my future faith is rooted at St. Cecilia School, where I received a Blue Ribbon, Catholic Education. I am looking forward to continuing the virtuous path next year as my journey into High School begins at Holy Cross in Covington, Kentucky.

God made me for a reason just like he did Aubrey Rose and my cousin Mason. And just like them, I hope to continue to inspire others to be the ray of light, do the right thing always, and share a smile - Thank you for this scholarship opportunity and good luck in your decision!