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Many students my age are doing great things with their time and talents. I believe I qualify for this category of my peers for many different reasons. For example, I put my time, talents, money, and voice towards impacting other's lives for the better. Some ways I've affected the lives of others with my time include volunteering at Pantry of Hope in Alexandria. I also helped organize a fundraiser for the Northern Kentucky Ice Center. Last May, I came up with the idea of having a car wash to help support the ice rink. I made flyers and recruited my mom for technical support. I recruited the help from two entire hockey teams and their families who volunteered and helped make this fundraiser possible. In the end, we made over \$1,500 from donations to help the rink. I can confidently say that this fundraiser helped so many people once we got new benches and some new equipment. The equipment provided a safer environment for the skaters. The new benches created a more comfortable way for families and friends to enjoy the rink. When I'm not organizing fundraisers, I'm volunteering at Pantry of Hope. I sort food, drinks, and gifts. I also help set out bags of assorted goods and food products to make it easier when families come for assistance. I believe so strongly in this charity, so I willingly donate my finances towards this charity. For the past two years, I have used my dog and babysitting money to adopt a family in need from this center. These families usually consist of two to five children. Once I adopt a family, I buy and wrap them presents based on their ages and interests. Even before I got involved with Pantry of Hope, I bought presents for little kids in less fortunate households. When Covid-19 started, I would make mask lanyards out of my Rainbow Loom Bands and sell them to friends and family. Then, I would take all the profits and buy presents from St.

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Pius's giving tree. I'm sure these kids appreciate anything they get, but around the holidays, it makes it extra special to know someone does care about their needs. When money isn't needed, I am able to put my talents to good use. I play hockey at the Northern Kentucky Ice Center. Every Tuesday night from 5:00-6:00 I am on the ice helping the instructional class. This is the beginners class, that invites all kids from ages three to ten to come and learn how to play hockey, regardless of their skill level. I help run stations, keep the beginners interested and focused on what we are doing. I'm a good listener and enjoy hearing about their day. I've been encouraged by parents who have told me their children look up to me on and off the ice, and how much the little skaters love being on the ice with me.

I'm not one to try and stand out, but with the challenges placed before me, I have had no other choice than to adapt and use these challenges to grow stronger. I was born with a heart condition called VSD and I play hockey with all boys because there are no girls' teams locally. Being the only girl playing hockey and suffering a heart condition, I have really broken barriers in others lives but especially in my own life. I've learned to use my voice to positively impact others around me. I won't give up on myself and I won't give up on my team either. I feel I have helped shape them into better people and better hockey players. I try to live my life in alliance with God's plans, and I try to positively change others around me. I hope that I can continue my journey of helping others into my highschool years. Receiving this scholarship would benefit my family who have done so much to love and support me through every challenge. \

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With all of this, I have a letter of recommendation from Brandy Medaugh - Director of Pantry of Hope and Homeless Case Manager for Catholic Charities.

To whom this may concern,

August 2020, I got the privilege to meet Ashlynn. After working with her for a little bit, I quickly learned what a go-getter she is. I was very excited for the opportunities ahead, seeing instantly that she would be a difference maker for many.

When I first met Ashlynn, it was near the hockey rink where she was playing hockey with my oldest son. She walked out on that rink for the first time with determination and confidence. Watching her grow over the last couple of years on the ice with her hard work, long hours of practice, negative feedback from others at times, and the ups and downs; nothing stopped her. Ashlynn continued to fight through and get better. Not only was she determined to better herself, but she was also determined to continue to help her teammates grow. Supporting them when they were struggling, celebrating with them when they were at their highs and even lending a hand during their falls, she has completely been an all-around great teammate.

Not only is she a true leader on the ice, outside she's even more extraordinary. As the Director of the Party of Hope, a local food pantry that has been in operation over 17 years feeding those around us in need, I have been able to watch Ashlynn in action. Ashlynn has come on many occasions making a huge impact every time. As the clients walk in the door scared, lost, and struggling to find some hope, Ashlynn is quickly there

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to greet them upon entering. She gives her full dedication and attention to use the resources given to be able to serve every need they present to her. At times the resources aren't available, and she goes above and beyond to find them. It is nothing for her to whip together a quick food drive, get her friends together to make sure people have presents for Christmas, or go to her own piggy bank to purchase needed items. She has continued to strive and prove what a true Christian, helper, and leader she is.

Ashlynn has a true heart to make sure she takes care of others' needs before her own. She is constantly reminding others about the ways to use the resources that they no longer need to provide for those that do. It's nothing for her to root through her closet, or help her siblings to gather clothing, toys, and other items that they no longer need, to donate to the less fortunate. The last few years, she has gotten extra babysitting or dog sitting jobs to earn money to adopt a family for the holidays. She uses this money to make sure that the less fortunate children have presents to open on Christmas morning.

My other role in the community is as the Homeless Case Manager for Catholic Charities. I have been privileged to see Ashlynn in action with this population, as well. She goes above and beyond what most children her age would do to help those that she's seen struggling in the community with poverty and homelessness. She has taken her time to drop off blankets and coats, given her own money, and prayed for them. Not many children her age would take the time to even look past their phones, their friends, and their own needs/wants to consider those around them who are struggling. Many probably wouldn't even be able to point them out because they're so focused on

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themselves, but not Ashlynn. She's an amazing girl who is determined to make a difference in the lives around her in the many ways that she can. She has helped me many times bag up homeless care packages and has donated many supplies towards them to make them complete.

Throughout all these examples you should truly be able to see what a difference Ashlynn makes in her community, her school, her family, and any of the lives that she touches around her. She is a true role model and anyone that crosses her path will learn something from her. I am very privileged to have her as part of my volunteer team and looking forward to the many years ahead that she serves with me.

Sincerely,

Brandy Medaugh