

Andrew Isaac

Jenks High School

Grade 12

Driven to Give Back

Albert Einstein said, “A life lived for others is a life worth living.” This has proven true in my life. I find true joy and satisfaction when I help others and make a positive impact in their life. I am driven to build relationships with people so that I can help them however I am able.

I was diagnosed with leukemia the week after I finished third grade. I spent over three years receiving chemo treatment, during which my outlook shifted dramatically. Through multiple hospitalizations and frequent clinic visits, I built relationships with nurses, doctors, and many others involved in my treatment. Through community support groups and fundraisers for childhood cancer research, I met other kids that have been diagnosed with cancer. So many of these people have shown me kindness, love, and hospitality, and the impact of this friendliness and compassion that I experienced during my treatment compelled me to share it with others, because I know how it benefited me.

I love to volunteer in my church’s preschool ministry every Sunday morning, where I help prepare snacks, clean everything so the preschoolers stay safe and healthy, and keep them out of trouble. I also hang out with the kids, do crafts with them, read to them, and eat the delicious pretend meals that they prepare for me! It is such a joy for me to work with these preschoolers, and we get along really well; I know that it makes it easier on the parents to have

someone the kids love to play with and talk with.

I want to major in Elementary Education, where I can help many students. I am privileged to intern at one of my district's elementary schools for an hour each day. I have been able to teach lessons, help the students with their work, and help the teacher with grading, copying, planning, and organizing (which I love to do). The best part is getting to know the fourth graders and building relationships with them, while helping them with their work. I was in fourth grade towards the beginning of my treatment, and so I needed a lot of help in school. Although these students are not going through cancer treatment, each has their own struggles. I do not know what it is like when they go home or what they may be going through personally. I want to be there for them, whether that is helping them or encouraging them, because I know that something so small might help much more than I can know.

This scholarship would assist me in helping others. I could use more of my resources to help others instead of paying off debt from getting an education. The support I received allows me to aid others with a joyful heart, because I know that what I do to help others will not go in vain. I love to help others-- it gives me purpose-- it is my drive.