

# Sophie Meinhardt Memorial Scholarship 2015

Kevin Heckman

St. Jude

What have I done for someone else that was perfectly free of any personal gain you may ask? Starting in November, I have been tutoring kids in the St. Jude Aftercare Program. There are kids anywhere from kindergarten to sixth grade getting tutored. I know these kids greatly appreciate the help. I have made many new friends from tutoring kids.

Almost every time I tutor, I help AJ. AJ is in fourth grade and he loves when I am tutoring him. Every time I help AJ, we have lots of fun. Home work is definitely not fun, but he said I make it more than that. Last week, I was really touched when AJ came down late and he wanted me to tutor him, but I had to leave. He asked me to help him and no one else. I thought to myself, he wanted me to tutor him that bad that he only asked for me.

Alongside AJ is Jack. Jack is in second grade and never leaves my side as long as I am tutoring. When I tutor Jack, just the look on his face brightens my day. About two weeks ago, Jack finished his homework and when I started to leave he asked me where I was going. It was not time to leave yet. I was just going to get my backpack ready to go. He wanted me to stay there with him until he left. I was in shock when he said that. When I turned around and saw a big smile on his face, I could not believe I meant that much to him.

Tutoring these kids made me realize the person I have become. I appreciate the opportunity to tutor kids after school and the ability to help them out when they are struggling. I know they appreciate me taking an hour out of my time to help them understand their homework. The happy faces I see when I come down to the cafeteria make my day.