

Sophie Meinhardt Memorial Scholarship 2015

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St. Jude

A time that I have felt pure of heart was when I recently went to the Bethany Home for the poor. The Bethany House is a place for women and their kids to go to when they are poor, need help finding a job, or just if they need a meal. It was Christmastime when we went to visit. I wasn't sure what to expect. Truthfully I was scared, but as soon as I got there that changed. My family and some other St. Jude families made a Mexican meal for the kids and their moms. We set up all the food for everyone in the kitchen. The moms came in and made the plates for both themselves and their kids. They then ate the meal in a huge dining room. While the St. Jude moms helped in the kitchen, the rest of us went into the basement play area to set up games and crafts for the kids to do after dinner. I went down into the colorful basement. It was concrete with yellow walls and cool paintings on the walls. It was full of games, toys, and crafts. There was also an art room. I waited for the kids to come down. As soon as dinner was finished, the kids came down to play. I sat on the carpeted floor and quickly became buddies with a little boy. He was one of the cutest little kids I had ever seen! We played action figures, puzzles and blocks. The way he looked when he was playing with the toys would make you think that he had everything he ever wanted. My little buddy smiled and laughed as we played! As I looked around, it was so cute to see all the kids lighten up with joy as they played with their new friends. It really made me happy to see that everyone there was extremely kind and playful! They all seemed to be having a great time with all the St. Jude families!

While I was there and looking around, I realized how much I really loved helping others. To see them smile while eating, playing, or just talking to someone was priceless. They may not have had everything they wanted, but they were still the kindest and happiest people! Going to the Bethany House made me see that doing good things for others really was rewarding. Knowing I was doing God's will helped me become more thankful about everything I have in my own life. It also reminded me that I need to thank God for that every day. The Meinhardt story and the story of all those young kids helped me to remember to cherish every moment I have with someone. It also showed me that you don't need a lot of stuff to make you happy. There are a lot of people out there who are pure of heart every day, to everyone they know or meet. I hope one day that I can become that person. Until then, I will have to try my hardest and pray to God about it every day.

I really felt like going to the Bethany House changed me as a person. Before going there, I never really stopped to thank God about everything I have. Even the smallest things that you take for granted, like a toothbrush or socks. Or even a place to live. Sometimes you don't realize how lucky you are to have these things. So going to the Bethany House helped me to remember to be thankful for all the big and little things that I have in my life. I hope that one day everybody gets to have an experience like I did.

As my family and I were leaving the Bethany House, I went to say goodbye to the cute, little boy that I had been playing with all night. His mom was holding him, and he was blowing me kisses and waving goodbye to me. His mom said to us, "Thank you and Merry Christmas! Be safe going home." To feel that joy and love in your heart was incredible. Knowing that you are doing the right thing, and knowing you made someone smile even though they are going through a tough time, was amazing. Treat everyone how you would want to be treated.