

Sophie Meinhardt Memorial Scholarship 2017

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St. Jude

My gift that I have received from God that I used to help others is the talent of crocheting. Sounds crazy, I know, but let me explain. Last year was a tough year for me and my family. My grandma got very sick and ended up having a stroke, and has been having mini strokes and seizures ever since. From all the seizures and strokes she lost the ability of doing what she loved to do, crocheting. She would crochet blankets and scarves as Christmas and Birthday gifts for all of her grandchildren. She was devastated when she realized that she had forgotten how to crochet. As she was beginning to feel better and when she started to relearn herself, I became interested in it myself. After visiting her one night at the nursing home, I brought home a ball of yarn and a single crocheting hook. That night, as soon as I got home, I went straight up to my room and looked up on my phone how to crochet for beginners. I ended up crocheting a coaster for my grandma that night. I brought her the coaster I made the next evening. She was so surprised to see what I had taught myself and said she was very proud of me. She was smiling from ear to ear, and she gave me the best hug in the world. She looked at me and said, "I am so happy that someone has learned to crochet so that they can take my place when I am gone". I looked at her and a tear was streaming down her face.

After I showed my grandma what I could do, I kept practicing and practicing until I taught myself how to make hats. I ended up trying all sorts of patterns and techniques to improve my crocheting skills and most of it helped me with my hat making. After making hats my crocheting began to get even better. I ended up making two baby hats and a baby blanket for my newborn cousin. When I finished the hats for her, I showed my mom and her jaw about dropped to the floor. On a 5 hour car ride with my mom and sister, I found myself sitting in the back of the car crocheting a long line of patterns. It wasn't the best item that I had made, but it gave me a jumpstart on my crocheting abilities. I ended up crocheting four hours of the five hour trip. When I returned from that trip I immediately wanted to create a shop on Etsy to sell my hats. My family was very impressed, especially my mom. She was my biggest supporter in the start of my crocheting career and told me she would help me.

I knew the moment I picked up a crocheting hook that I wanted to share and donate my hats for a cause. I wanted to donate them to kids and babies who were diagnosed with cancer or any other terrible disease that made them lose their hair. My mom emailed Children's Hospital to see if they would allow me to donate my hats for the kids who were sick. They quickly responded to us saying that they would be very grateful for my hat donation. After I heard about that email I began making as many hats as I could make in a variety of sizes. We then received another email from the Children's Hospital donation coordinator, Anna. She was very sweet and excited about my donation and impressed by my story. She was able to answer all the questions that my mom and I had about donating. We scheduled a time and a date with her to go to Children's Hospital to donate my hats. I attached a card to each hat saying: "A Hat To Warm A Heart... Especially for you!" I woke up so excited the day we were meeting Anna to drop off the hats because I knew it was finally the day that I was going to be able to share my talent with others and make someone happy.

The gift that I have received from God is the talent to crochet and the want to share it by giving to others. My crocheting has affected others by letting them know that someone loves and cares for them. I hope it will also let them know that they do not need to be embarrassed of the way they look. The hats that I make are made with love and care for those who need it the most. I hope the hats that I make and donate keep little babies and

children of all ages heads warm at all times. But most of all, I hope that my hats don't only keep heads warm but that they also warm a lot of hearts.

