

## **Sophie Meinhardt Memorial Scholarship**

### **My Gift from God**

When most people think of talents and abilities, they usually think of athleticism, musical talent, or artistic talent. Although I am interested in all of those, they are not my talent/ability. I do not excel in sports, but do sometimes play them. I am more smart than athletic. Being smart is a talent of mine, but it is something that helps me more than others. My true talent is being kind and generous to others.

I believe the gift of my compassionate heart has, can, and will help people in many ways. For instance, when I was younger, I used to go out every night in the summer to talk to my elderly next door neighbor. He is disabled and he doesn't get out much, but he enjoys sitting on the driveway watching all the neighborhood kids play. I would get a lawn chair and bring it to his driveway and talk to him about whatever. Sometimes my friend would come over and talk to him too. I also shovel his driveway every time it snows and I made him and his wife a card for their birthdays last year. I know how much he enjoyed it because he sent my mom a message saying how grateful he was.

Another example of how my kind heart helped benefit someone was when I went with my mom to decorate her friend's house for Christmas. My mom's friend, Jen, had cancer at the time, and her husband was taking care of the kids. As a result, they were unable to decorate their house for Christmas. My mom wanted to put up lights without them knowing and I wanted to help. We had to go at night. I was kind of fun sneaking around so that they would not see us. We even almost got caught at one point in the night! Jen and her family were so surprised and happy, which made me feel good.

My kindness has also given me the desire to participate in activities such as Tender Mercies, City Gospel Mission, and Matthew 25 Ministries. Providing meals to the homeless has not only helped them, but helped me see that they are real people with feelings too.

My kind heart has allowed me to get to know all of my classmates as friends rather than competitors since I do not play sports against them. I wish I had the chance to know Sophie as a classmate and a friend, too.

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in The Sophie Meinhardt Scholarship.