

# Sophie Meinhardt Memorial Scholarship

2018

If I could pick one gift that I have received from God that has been put to use to help others I would choose my compassion. Compassion is defined as sympathetic pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others. When I read the definition I feel it describes me. I love to lend a helping hand when and wherever I can. Many times I never have to leave my house.

My little brother, Nolan, has a condition called Thrombocytopenia Absent Radius (TAR). He was born without a radius bone in both of his arms. This makes his arms shorter, and his hands smaller. Since birth he has needed help with many things where he uses his arms. Now he is 8 and still needs assistance with getting dressed, tying his shoes, and reaching things up high. I like helping him do these things. It makes me feel good that I can make his life a little bit easier. My brother's syndrome has also made me realize how hard it is for disabled people. His disability has taught me not be afraid to help a person in need.

When I am not helping my brother I do things for my mom. Diagnosed with breast cancer in 2014, it's been a constant struggle to control the disease. There are days when she doesn't feel well. Those are the times she needs me the most. I help get things done around the house, but I also do things just for her. Foot massages, and watching TV are her favorite.

My compassion makes me a better person. I believe it is my gift from God. I use it to help those in my family but I have also had a chance to use it outside of my house as well. Just recently me and a group of friends went to Hands for Hunger. While we were there we packed bags of food for people in Africa. That experience has really taught me to appreciate what I have and be compassionate for those who don't have as much as me.