Sophie Meinhardt Memorial Scholarship 2018 Application DUE DATE: February 8, 2018

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I don't think about how my talents benefit others very often, but when it comes to my mind I think of volunteering in a preschool classroom. A couple times a year I go to Delshire Elementary School and help in the special education preschool classroom. This is a type of class where younger kids with disabilities, like autism, dyslexia, and adhd, can go to learn in a normal preschool environment. The first time I volunteered was a little nerve racking, I didn't know what to expect or how to deal with all of the kids. After the first couple of minutes I figured it out. It wasn't much of a struggle to help kids with disabilities to learn.

Another thing I noticed when I was volunteering was how the kids treated each other. All of the students treated each other just like they would want to be treated. This changed the way I view some things in life. I now think to myself how it doesn't matter if someone if different in any way, they can still do the same things that I can do. It made me think more of how everyone is equal on the inside. When I come across someone in my life who experiences challenges, I treat them the way I would want to be treated, instead of treating them differently to fit their challenges.

Ever since I first volunteered, I love going back. When I visit Delshire Elementary it reminds me how to treat others respectfully, and how to be the person God made me to be. Without this experience I probably wouldn't be the same person today. I try to encourage others how to treat others with the respect they deserve. With God's guidance, I continue to follow to Golden Rule, and I hope this encourages others to treat everyone the way that they would want to be treated.