## Sophie Meinhardt Memorial Scholarship 2019 Application DUE DATE: February 8, 2019

| Ella                                   | Herrn | rann |    |
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God has given me many great abilities, talents, and skills. The best abilities that he has given me, though, has been my very voice that I speak. With my voice, I have spoken up against bullying, comforted someone who was sad, and helped a homeless person by giving them kind words and a bag of things that might help. The voice I speak today has benefited and done service for others.

My voice has hopefully impacted my fellow classmate's life forever. One person in my class was making fun and saying nasty things to another person. This person wasn't one of my best friends or one of the most popular people in the grade. I spoke up for this person by telling the bully to knock it off and that they could do better than picking on someone. I think the bully whispered something about me after that but I didn't care. I knew that I had done something great for the person being made fun of. I had used my own very voice to help someone and possibly change that person's life forever. I smiled the rest of that day knowing that I had proclaimed God's will through my voice and my actions.

With my own mouth, I have also comforted my friend who felt like she was a nothing and a nobody. I told her that someone in the world wanted her there in their life. I told her that person was me and that they're many other people that love her for her true colors. I facetimed her for hours making sure she was okay and I made her laugh her true laugh. I have seen her so much happier this year than I have ever seen her in a long time. I am happy I used my voice to benefit her and make her feel appreciated.

Every year, during the winter time, my family and I make gift bags for homeless people downtown. We put hats, gloves, blankets, food items, toiletries, hand warmers, and water in the bags. We always keep the bags in our car and whenever we go downtown, we carry them around to see if anyone needs them. I think that giving the homeless people the "blessing bags", that's what we call them, comes from the heart unlike just giving them loose change or dollars from your purse. Now, here's where the ability of my voice comes into play. After I give someone a bag, I say, "Have a great day." You may think this may not be much but many homeless people appreciate the fact you said something nice. These little words may not mean a lot to you, but they might make someone else's day.

I have learned something very important this year. This is that the little things that you do in life have the most impact. These little things can change someone's day and maybe even their life. I hope that the comfort of my voice can be a little act of kindness in someone's big world. I hope I can keep benefiting others through something as small as saying something nice to another person.