

# 2010 Scholarship Application

Gabrielle Notorgiacomo

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FIRST NAME LAST NAME

I am Gabrielle Notorgiacomo, an eighth-grader at Villa Madonna Academy. I am planning to continue my education at Villa Madonna High School in the fall.

When I first moved to Kentucky six years ago, I didn't exactly fit in. I felt lonely and out of place at the new school I first attended. Then I changed schools, made friends, and I'm much happier, but that memory is still fresh in my mind. That's why whenever there is a new student in my class I make it my mission to make them feel welcome. I invite them to my birthday parties, encourage them to play with me and my friends at recess, and ask them to sit by me at lunch. I can't even describe how good it makes me feel when they start to make more friends and finally settle in.

I love animals, so last year when friends asked what they could give me for my birthday, I asked for Target gift cards. I used these cards to buy items on the donation list for the Kenton County Animal Shelter. I had so much fun shopping for the animals, and when I dropped the donations off, I was grinning from ear to ear! Helping those homeless animals felt amazing and I still smile when I think about it! I enjoyed doing that so much that this year, as a Student Council member, I am organizing a donation collection at Villa Madonna. We are planning to wrap all of the donations in Easter baskets to bring them to the Kenton County Animal Shelter. I can't wait to see our results!

Singing has been a major part of my life for a long time. God blessed me with this gift and I have been a part of Villa's Mass Choir since fourth grade. I am grateful for this talent and it is important to me that I use this gift in praise of God. I also take vocal lessons and my instructor has all of her students perform in biannual recitals. We have a lot of younger students, and they tend to get very stressed or nervous before performing. I always sing fun, goofy songs with them before the show and try to make them laugh. I never want them to be too worried about the show, so I replace that worry with smiles and giggles. A few of my own performances have really moved people, sometimes to the point where they have tears in their eyes. Their smiles and joy-filled tears, to me, are better than any applause!

Last year, a boy in my class was in a car accident. His head injuries prevented him from playing the trombone in band, so he was switched to percussion. I could tell that he was really having a hard time adjusting, so I tried to help him out whenever possible. I would explain the notes and techniques to him, encourage him, and make sure that he understood how to play the bass drum. Every once in a while he would smile when he got something, and it made me feel like I had really made a difference for him.

A year ago, I finally donated my hair to Locks of Love. It took me two years to grow out my hair to the required length. Having long hair was a nightmare for me! I sometimes wanted to quit and just give in and get a haircut. The only thing that made me continue growing it was the thought of the children

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I'd be helping. This would be one of the greatest gifts they'd ever receive. Knowing what a difference my hair would make in the life of someone who had none was powerful enough to get me through all the knots and detangling!

For me, one of the greatest awards is a smile. When I know that I've made someone happy, it really brightens up my day. I look forward to making even more people smile, smiling back at them, just like Aubrey! Her story is an inspiration to me and proof that you're never too young to make a difference in the lives of others! Thank you for the opportunity to share my smiles and stories with you!