



2009 Scholarship Application

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Alan

Bossman

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

Why do people smile? Well it is because they are happy. Why are people happy? Well there are many answers to that. Sometimes it is the way someone feels. Other times it is because someone touched their heart. Another reason is because someone was included instead of being pushed away. The best reason for someone to be happy, in my mind, is because they were just shown a sign of appreciation. I find it quite lovely when you respect someone or are especially nice to someone and they respond with a smile.

My name is Alan Bossman. Currently I am an eighth grader at Saint Gabriel Consolidated School in Glendale. I try my best to show gratitude and kindness toward others. Life is all about how it affects others around you. My favorite example of a time in which I made someone smile was about four years ago and it continued for several months. I was decorating the Heart Center at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. My mother had always reported that decorating the unit seemed to cheer up every child on the floor, yet I was able to take it farther. A baby girl, Christina, was ill. My mother had been taking care of her for a few weeks. The door was slightly cracked open and my mom let me take a peek at her. Christina's mother noticed us and let us step into the room. I felt bad that an innocent little baby could be so ill. A week later I was still thinking about little Christina. I had begun to incorporate her in my nightly prayers. That just did not seem to be enough. I got the idea to write notes to her. Although she wasn't reading them, for she was far too young, her mom read them aloud to her. I had made her mother smile. Christina's mom wrote back to me, thanking me for the note and the prayers. She told me that it made Christina happy. This went on for a while, and eventually Christina recovered and left the hospital. About a year later, my mom brought home a note from the hospital addressed to me. Christina's mother had written a thank you note, thanking me in aiding with Christina's recovery through my prayers and hope. Included in the envelope was a picture of Christina smiling. This made me smile. I had traded a smile for a smile.

Last year I had a first grade buddy. I mainly only read with him, but my presence was a greater gift than I imagined. He loved the fact that he had one on one time with an older student. In the halls we would always greet each other. When we were done reading we would have a great conversation about his weekend and how school was going. This year I have a

Kindergarten buddy. We do the same stuff as I did with my buddy last year, only this time we have more time to chat about how life is going. I just sit there with him and let him talk about all that has gone on since the last time I saw him. He absolutely loves it. In fact, his mother sent me a Christmas card thanking me for setting a good influence and that Christopher comes home after seeing me and talks about how great seeing me was, and how it not only gives him a smile, but also brings her a smile too.

I believe in community service and affecting others by the things that I do. I volunteer at my school and maintain the gardens in front of the school throughout the growing season by watering, weeding, and dead heading the flowers. The beautiful grounds please others and bring joy to me knowing that I can make a small corner of the world a prettier place to be. I am a Boy Scout and participate in many service events with my Troop, like maintaining the grounds at Our Lady of Rosary and St. Clare Monastery. Another big way that I participate in bringing a smile to others is in participating in the Makatewa Cub Scout Camp as a volunteer. For the past 3 years I have volunteered for the week long program as a patrol leader. Working with the young scouts is a demanding yet rewarding experience. I have been able to assist young scouts in learning the Boy Scout Laws and have affected their growth and ability to bring a smile to others.

I believe in being a person of character. My parents, teachers, belief in God, and scouting have given me the background to positively affect the people around me. Life is all about touching others with your heart, even if it starts with a smile.