

## BLAKE BISCHOFF

### ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST - HARRISON

Being part of a Catholic family has provided me with a very strong Christian upbringing. I am the oldest of four boys and with that comes a lot of responsibility. Not a day goes by where I don't help my parents with daily tasks of cleaning up, helping my younger brothers, or just lending a helping hand when needed. I am also responsible for setting a good example for my brothers as they begin to follow in my footsteps. In addition, I belong to a small Catholic school with a class size of just 27 students. We try to help each other out as often as possible. For me, this ranges from making sure no one is left out when working in groups to lending my belt to a friend that forgot his uniform and borrowed one from school that was too big for him. Thankfully, I have learned these morals from my family and peers which has given me the integrity that I now possess. Helping others is not necessarily expected of me from others as much as I expect it from myself.

So when I was asked to reflect on one particular thing that has affected the people in my life, it was hard to pick just one. But after much thought, one event did come to mind that I am very proud of. It is something that I did this summer for someone in my community, my neighbor, Mr. Tony Oru. Mr. Oru is in the Reserves and was called to active duty to serve in Iraq this past summer. He is the father of two young boys whose wife works as a nurse. One of his main concerns was that his family would be taken care of while he was away taking care of America. With being a young teenager, at first I felt there wasn't much I could do. But as the summer progressed, it was obvious that I could help the family by simply taking care of mowing the lawn. It was so rewarding to know that Mrs. Oru never had to worry about mowing her lawn.

Simply by making sure their two acres were taken care of properly, I was able to help Mr. Oru in his quest of taking care of his family. I know that Mr. Oru had enough to worry about with taking care of himself and his country in an unsafe environment. I wanted to make sure that at least some of his worries for his family were relieved. As for Mrs. Oru, I know that she was worried the entire time her husband was away overseas, but it certainly felt fulfilling to be able to take care of her and her family in my own special way.

I look forward to attending LaSalle High School to continue my education at a Catholic high school. I am aware of the difference between private and public schools and cherish the fact that I am able to continue my education in such a kind, caring environment.

Thank you for your consideration of my application for the Scholarship. I will continue to do my best to set a positive example for not only my younger brothers, but for the community in which I live.