

Tara M. Franke – Summit Country Day School Middle School – Summit Country Day Upper School

I am an eighth grader at the Summit Country Day Middle School in Hyde Park, where I recently became a National Junior Honor Society member. I intend to continue my studies at Summit's Upper School because the community is very welcoming and supportive. Upon graduation with the Class of 2019, I will be known as a Lifer because I have been at Summit since I was two years old.

At home, I am expected to do household chores, yard work, and taking care of our pets. My favorite academic classes are math and science. I love sports; I play basketball, golf, tennis, and volleyball. I especially love the game of volleyball because it brings me confidence in my ability to perform well under pressure and helps me cope with the stress of daily life. When my volleyball team travels for tournaments, we are able to bond together and get to know each other better. Forming closer friendships makes the trips extremely fun while getting to learn something new about my teammates.

I enjoy giving back to the community in which I live, assisting others brings me great joy as I strive to positively affect others and in turn, gives me purpose and balance. I have learned there are many ways to make a difference in the community. Over the past several years I have volunteered with or raised money for my church youth group, Girl Scouts, CISV-a peace education program, school, Colon and Breast Cancer Walks, Matthew 25 Ministries, and The Ronald McDonald House. Currently I am growing my hair out for Locks of Love. However, to be most effective I have chosen to primarily volunteer with three organizations: Families for Families, The Aubrey Rose Foundation, and Save the Animals Foundation.

With the Families for Families organization, I regularly volunteer at a shelter for battered women and their children. About 10 years ago my family started me on a tradition of helping at the shelter. We regularly donate food, clothing, and toys along with serving monthly dinners, purchasing and wrapping Christmas and Mother's Day gifts, assisting with holiday parties and dinners. When my brother and I were younger we would frequently have a lemonade and brownie stand on a golf course near our house, with 100% of the proceeds going to the shelter. We did not charge, it was by donation only. Many golfers generously gave \$5, \$10 or even \$20 to help fund our cause.

About two years ago I was at the shelter volunteering when I was made aware many of the children at the shelter do not have the necessary school supplies to do their schoolwork. Appreciating the value of a good education, I came up with the idea to purchase backpacks and fill them with essential school supplies for the children. For the past two school years I have researched which stores have the best pricing on backpacks and school supplies before my mom takes me shopping to maximize my fundraising dollars. I sort, assemble, and then deliver forty backpacks filled with various age appropriate school supplies to the shelter to be distributed before the start of the new school year. Knowing the

children who live at the shelter can start the school year off right with their very own backpack and fit in with their classmates, makes me feel I've made a difference both, academically and socially in their lives.

The second organization I started volunteering with, about a year and a half ago, is The Aubrey Rose Foundation. My first encounter with The Aubrey Rose Foundation was when I was a six-year-old model in the annual American Girl Fashion Show, then again several years later. I feel a special connection to Aubrey, and here is how, nine years ago, my mom told me how she met the Hollenkamp's through mutual friends and learned of Aubrey's amazing journey. You see, Aubrey became an angel just two days after I was born, after enduring a hard fought heart and lung condition. While my family was joyously celebrating my birth, Aubrey's family was sadly mourning her passing. After learning of Aubrey's story, with her infectious smile and happy demeanor, I felt compelled to help out. Volunteering with the foundation's Fall Festival, Heart of It Ball, American Girl Fashion Show, and at the annual children's Christmas party, I learned I should not take my health for granted and every day is a gift from God. Also, I find inspiration as Aubrey's smiling and happy legacy continues to bring joy to patients who have endured great health concerns.

Lastly, my love for animals takes me to Save the Animals Foundation, which is a no-kill animal shelter currently home to over 600 dogs and cats of all ages, many of whom have been abused, abandoned or literally tossed away. In order to be a volunteer, you must be eighteen or older. Since I do not fulfill that requirement, I am only allowed to groom the animals and play with them on the designated days with my older sister. I volunteer at the shelter since I love animals, especially kittens and cats. Volunteering brings me happiness seeing these endearing animals feel loved and cared for despite their neglected or homeless past. I would love to become a veterinarian someday so I can help as many animals as possible. I know most of the time I would see an animal for a check-up, but every once in a while I might be able to save an animals life.

I plan to continue with these three exceptional organizations throughout my high school career and beyond. Helping people and animals makes me feel fulfilled, satisfied and inspired, and reminds me how very lucky I am to have my health, attend school regularly, not go to bed hungry, live in a home without violence or abuse, and have a family who wants, loves and cares about me deeply.

I would be honored to be the recipient of the 2015 Aubrey Rose Foundation Scholarship. I would do my very best to continue the foundation's mission and to honor Aubrey's legacy. I have been involved with the foundation for as long as I can remember, first as a model and now as a volunteer, I plan to continue to be a part of the foundation in the years to come. Receiving the scholarship would be amazing, and then, I can be just like my brother, since he received the scholarship two years ago. Also, being awarded the scholarship would allow me to meet other students who care about others as much as I do.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Yours truly,
Tara Franke



Me with 40 school supply filled backpacks.