

## Payton Robinson – St. Columban – Ursuline Academy

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6 months ago, someone very close to me passed away. I thought I would never get over it. How could I cope with everything myself and help others get through it, too? Moving on was the hardest thing I have ever done in my life. During the time I spent healing, I realized many things I needed to change and I strongly believe I changed other people's lives too. From this painful experience, I can easily understand how Aubrey affected many people and how her legacy continues to live on.

One of the main places I think I affect people's lives is at school. I have good grades, but I don't brag about it. I use it to my advantage in helping others. People trust me with the right answers, so I make online notecards for the whole grade of around 80 kids to use before tests. I am never more pleased than when someone I don't even know very well comes up to me and thanks me for helping them boost their grade by giving them study tips. Also, people contact me all the time asking for help with concepts they don't understand. I don't hesitate in helping them. I know that I am blessed in my academics and I love to help others improve their own schoolwork.

Another thing I love to do, at school and at home, is service. One of the simplest acts of service I do is making cards with my class for families that are struggling. We each write a nice note and scripture verse and create a chain to give the family hope during their time of trouble. I have also spent two school days on a service field trip. The time I would usually spend in class is spent at local foundations and organizations doing community service. After the most recent service day, I even asked for donations instead of gifts at my birthday party to give the foundation to assist in their mission because I was moved by my experience helping them out.

Outside of school, I love to work with friends to help others through service. I have done two food drives in the past few months just in local neighborhoods. My friends and I passed out flyers, collected the food, and then brought it to a food pantry and organized it. I also work at Sunday school every other week helping younger kids learn the Gospel and do crafts. Each Wednesday, I go to school a half hour early to tutor kids in the younger grades who struggle in some subjects. I love how the service helps others out, but also makes me a better person and benefits my attitude by making me feel good about myself.

Things can get really busy at my house, especially with two siblings, but I still try to help my family out as much as possible. I try to make sure I have my schedule in line so I don't make my parents worry. I take the dogs for walks and I make meals for myself and siblings when my parents are not home. While doing all of this I still balance a good night's sleep, exercising, and doing homework. This may sound very ordinary, but I believe I set a great example for my siblings. My younger brother looks up to what I do and I encourage him to do all of his chores and homework. I think that it really affects his life, while also affecting my parents' lives by making it easier on them. I even do most nice things without other people knowing. I'll clean up the house or make dinner when my parents are at work, and when they get home, I don't boast about it. Just by being helpful, humble, and creative around my house, I am able to set a good example and make my parents proud.

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Another thing that helps me influence other people is by being on a cross country and track team. Running is one of the hardest sports, and most of it isn't physical, it's mental. Not only do I have to run races in both good and bad weather, but I have to cheer other people on as well. My teammates thank me all the time for encouraging them, and I'm happy to do it. Sometime people on my team get discouraged after a bad race, and I am able to cheer them up. I also love being a team player and, even though my races are individual, my placing contributes to our final score.

I believe I should be considered for this scholarship because I am responsible, hardworking, helpful, and I care. The money from this scholarship that helps me pay for high school will not go to waste because I will work hard and do well. I am planning to do cross country and track, and a new sport. I also hope to test into honors or AP classes. Even though I am organized, responsible, determined, and hardworking, the most important thing about me is I try to put others first as much as possible. Thank you for your time and consideration.