

## OUR 2021 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

daddy's little girl  
scholarship foundation



### Daddy's Little Girl Essay

**Camryn Nicole Houston**



My dad has repeatedly told me that he is proud of the young lady that I have become and the growth I have shown over the last several years. Hopefully after reading my essay and getting to know me better, you will also agree that I have the qualities and characteristics that would make you proud to award me the Daddy's Little Girl Scholarship.

My parents raised me to value the importance of spending time with family, and having a good relationship with God. My brother and I were raised in the church, where family and faith really intertwined.

We would go to church as a family and even outside of church I was involved in bible studies, bible clubs and camps. I learned to follow God at an early age and I rely on my faith in my hardest moments. Since I can remember I have spent at least a week in the summer with my Grammie. These summer vacations were something I always looked forward to and I've made countless long lasting family memories. Even during my week stays, I knew we would be spending lots of time at my church away from home.

For as long as I can remember I have been passionate about creating a fair and just society for all people. My parents have always instilled in me the importance of education and hard work. They sacrificed to make sure I had a strong educational foundation and provided opportunities for me to explore different interests. An example was exposing me to Christian missionaries through church when I was young and hosting missionaries in our home. This was the beginning of my compassion and desire to help others. As a freshman in high school I had the opportunity to travel to Kenya for a two week mission trip which afforded me a completely different view of the meaning of poverty and inequality. I was humbled by how grateful the children in Africa were for every blessing that God has given them, and I realized how much God has truly favored me throughout my entire life.

The social injustices I've witnessed in the last four years have also fostered my desire to be an advocate for those deemed to not have a voice. I wanted to make a difference, which is why I jumped at the opportunity to intern with a law firm in Cleveland the summer of my junior year. Being able to shadow this diverse group of lawyers and watch them handle civil rights litigations, allowed me to recognize how strong my passion for justice truly is. It gave me a glimpse of how lawyers can have a positive impact on those being discriminated against and marginalized. This had a huge influence on me and solidified my career choice.

I began to advocate for the rights of everyone, no matter race, creed, sexual orientation, or gender. I used my voice when I saw injustices in my communities, and I stood in alliance with those who fought their own wars of injustice, but I decided that I could do more and have a greater impact on improving race relations in the lives of those around me. At school, I served as treasurer of the Black Student Union, where young Black females in my community come together and share experiences. This space has allowed me to grow as a leader and become more empathetic to my peer's experiences. As a Diversity Fellow, I worked with my classmates and administration to help our school become more inclusive and anti-racist. I wrote for a political newspaper that my school publishes, where I composed articles and exposés on the various violations of human rights that continue to emerge in our current climate. I also served as a member of the Ohio Attorney General's Teen Ambassador Board where I was given the opportunity to advise on vital issues facing my state. My involvement in these roles has taught me that the easiest way to see change is in yourself.

I have dedicated my time in high school to expanding upon my perspective in order to understand and work through the different experiences of those in my community. Speaking up for those in need has become a very big part of my life and being able to use my voice has allowed me to form my own opinions and encouraged me to seek the deeper understanding that I desire. I realize that in order to advocate for others I need to experience a broader lens that stretches beyond my current scope of understanding.

My interest in majoring in the field of philosophy stems from that desire and passion for equality, with the hopes to one day become a lawyer who can fight for a society where we can say "liberty and justice for all", and mean it. Engaging in the rich and diverse academic atmosphere during college will allow me to broaden my background and bring forth more to the table as a future civil rights lawyer.

My goal is to continue to make my dad and my family proud and to have a positive impact on the world. I would be honored to be a recipient of the Daddy's Little Girl scholarship and to carry on the legacy you've started.

**Camryn Nicole Houston**