

I was a member of The Office Group my junior and senior years of high school and even now I stay supported while in college. Deciding to become a member was one of the greatest decisions of my life and I am forever grateful for everything they have done for me. I wanted to go through my story with The Office Group and how they have and still are impacting my life today.

When I moved back to the Bend La Pine school district I started going to high school while living in Millican, Oregon, which is 45 miles away. Not only did I get up an hour earlier than all my classmates, I also didn't have access to running water or electricity. It didn't matter to me though; all I knew was I wanted to do well in school. All through my academic years I was able to achieve good grades, and I wasn't going to let living out there stop me from getting my 4.0. The Office Group saw how I was living and how well I was doing in school, and they decided to reach out to me to apply to join them.

I was very hesitant to join The Office Group because I wasn't sure if I wanted to go to college. Even if I was for sure not going to college, I would still recommend joining The Office Group. I essentially turned down the offer to join because I didn't think they could offer me anything. Boy was I wrong. Corben Hyatt, the head director, called me and convinced me to at least apply and see all the incredible things they might be able to do for me. I can say with full confidence this is the phone call that changed my life.

My first year as an office group member was peak COVID and that was also when my mom wasn't working. I let the Office Group know my situation and they actually paid for all my gas to and from school that year for me. This was a huge relief for my family and I. This made it so I could focus on school, rather than focus on getting to school. And my parents were able to focus on providing for me. They also helped me with school/homework when I needed it. The math tutor Betsy is so amazing and wonderful I would actually just prefer it if she taught me math for the rest of my life. I would've failed if it wasn't for her help and all the long days we both put in. When my first year within The Office Group came to an end, I couldn't believe I tried to not join. I mean I really felt like I was going to drop out if I didn't have all their love and support behind me. I instantly applied to be in The Office Group for the next year to come.

Somehow it feels like they helped me even more my second year than they did the first. I can say with confidence that I wouldn't be in college right now if it wasn't for the help of The Office Group. No one in my immediate family went to college, so when the time came to apply and start thinking about life after high school, I was lost. What forms to fill out with information for what I needed, what school had the best this or that, they helped with all of it. They stood by my side. We then nailed down the perfect college for me and I haven't had to pay a single penny of it. That's only because I've had the support of The Office Group by my side, allowing me to focus on my academics and become the best possible student I could be.

It's so crazy to me that I was almost not a part of The Office Group. Knowing everything they'd done for me, it would have been my biggest regret. Luckily, I don't have to live with that. And this was just a glimpse of everything they'd done for me. The Office Group really cares about its members and just wants to see them succeed and be happy and they absolutely achieved that with me.