

Dear Gibson City Auxiliary and the Scholarship Committee:

I am from Mahomet, IL. I am studying nursing at Saint Louis University. I am a first generation student. I have grown up in a family of several generations from the local area. I became interested in pursuing the medical field, when I had an unexpected surgery as a sophomore. My doctor took the time to explain exactly what the procedure was and how this would impact me medically. She really connected with me as a person, not just a young patient. I knew then, I wanted to use my greatest strength, compassion, to give back to others the way she took the time to support me through a scary situation as a young patient. When visiting schools, I knew St. Louis provided a unique opportunity for learning, being that it had its own teaching hospital, local children's hospital for clinicals and a study abroad program with clinical opportunities. Without the help of local supporters giving scholarships, I would not have been able to attend Saint Louis University.

As it is the end of my first semester, I want to email you and say thank you again for everything you have done for me. I am so grateful for all your help in making my dream of going to Saint Louis University come true. This past semester has been filled with so many exciting things, and I have enjoyed my time at Saint Louis. I have joined a sorority. I am a part of the Wishmakers club, which partners with the Make-A-Wish foundation. I have also been a part of the Saint Louis nursing association. Being a part of all these clubs has made finding friends and a support system easier to establish. I have learned to balance my school work and also still become connected to the area. Having survived my first semester of college finals, I am proud of what I have accomplished this semester. I have discovered certain study habits that have been successful for me. I was also able to volunteer at the Service for Sight Vision Walk/Run through my sorority and also have been able to meet with the local Wishmakers Club to give back to kids in the local area. I am so excited for many more semesters to come and to continue to explore the city. This dream would not have been possible without the financial support of this scholarship. Please know I am so grateful for the support and think about it every day while strolling through campus, attending class, volunteering and learning about the nursing profession. Thank you for making such a huge impact on my life!

Grace Lietz

