

Sophie Meinhardt Memorial Scholarship 2013

Erich Guenther
Our Lady of Visitation

Selfless actions come in many different forms. There are many selfless things a person can do, such as donating to the poor, helping the elderly, and feeding the hungry. I have done some of these things myself in order to receive service hours for my Confirmation. However, there was one time that I did something selfless that didn't help the poor or help cure cancer (although I plan on accomplishing this later in my life) This is the story of how I made a selfless decision in order to benefit my little brother.

My family and I are huge Notre Dame Football fans. Going to Notre Dame's campus and watching the team play is one of my favorite activities to do with my father. It's one of those father-son bonding things. This year, Notre Dame was going to the BCS National Championships in Miami, Florida. My dad somehow got two tickets to this game, so I was beyond excited at the possibility of going to the big game.

The same year, my third grade brother, Chase, started playing football. Chase discovered a love for the sport, and watched almost all the Notre Dame games this year. When thinking about going to the National Championship game, I realized that Hey- what if dad picks my brother to go to Miami with him?

Then, I thought some more. I thought about how often my father and I get to go to out-of-town athletic events, and how often we go to very nice golf courses to play 18 holes.

I also thought about the rare times my brother has gotten to bond with my dad. I didn't want in the slightest bit to give up a weekend-long vacation that would let me miss a day of school and fly on an airplane to eighty-degree weather in Miami. (By the way, it was mid-winter weather in Cincinnati). However, I decided that I would have to tell my dad that it was only fair to my brother that he take him to Miami.

Later that day, my dad was driving me home from swim practice. He told me that he was facing a dilemma about who to take to the game in Miami. I told my dad, "It's Chase who deserves it."

My dad's face was full of pride. He was glad I made the decision I did. I was happy to see my brother excited to go watch his favorite college team play.

This act of selflessness didn't benefit the entire world, an entire city, an entire neighborhood, or even my entire family. It only benefitted my brother, which, to me, means a lot than being a national hero. While I might never get the chance to see another championship game again, I know that my brother got to have a fun time in the closest thing to paradise at that time. My brother and I may fight sometimes, but there are certain sacrifices we are willing to make for each other. I never told my brother about the selfless decision I made, so as of now he doesn't "owe" me. Which is fine, considering selfless acts should never have to be repaid by another person.