

Taylor Lane

December 30th, 2022

It would be a great honor to be considered for the Dr. Becky J. Smith Scholarship. I am a sophomore studying toward a degree in Public Health, with a focus on raising awareness on the importance of health by educating and helping community members overcome obstacles. Education and humanities go hand and hand; therefore, I have dedicated time attempting to make a difference in the lives of others through my service throughout the years to create more opportunities to community members.

My volunteer experience consists of helping all ages and disabilities. During the global pandemic, many families struggled with financial hardships and mine was no exception. I attempted to help others, as well as my own family in every way I could. I started to create masks and assist neighbors to keep them safe. During this time, I realized I developed a desire to make a difference in the lives of others, regardless of how small. Every experience has provided me with a sense of fulfillment in my life. My volunteer experience consists of a donation drive organizer for homeless shelters, a sports coach for disabled children, an event coordinator for the adult special needs population and a camp counselor, all of which has inspired me to dedicate my life to serving others. I am currently involved in philanthropy as an Alpha Phi member, serving as den leader and COB leader, as well as, serving our mission of spreading awareness on heart health by conducting walkathons and blood drives. I also serve as a project health ambassador on campus educating students on the importance of health awareness and mentor community children at local schools through University of Alabama's Al's Pals Mentorship Program, in which I have been actively participating for three semesters.

My educational long-term goal is to become an optometrist, helping community members with the gift of vision. I most recently organized an eyeglass drive collecting vision wear to serve the less fortunate by providing the gift of sight. I am extremely proud of this successful outcome, as I have collected over 70 glasses to be donated. I also belong to UA's pre-optometry club and obtained honor distinction on the University of Alabama's President's list. I intend to use my higher level of education to apply what I learn into creating a better life to give back to others.