

Corey Allen*Finding a New Path Forward*

College Entrance Essay

Saint Duke's University

Throughout my life and into my teenage years, I would look around at my peers and wonder how they had so much while I had so little. It always seemed like everything came harder to me or I had to put in extra effort just to make things work. My father left my mother and I when I was just five years old. I do not know where he went or much about why he left our family. I suppose my mother always wanted to shield that from me and protect me from the truth. My father leaving us always left a void in my heart that I have tried every day to fill with goodness and love for my mother and for others with whom I would come in contact.

As I mentioned, life was not easy for me and my mother. I remember her always working two jobs just to make ends meet. I know it was hard for her and that the long hours for little pay made some months really tight around our home. Although I knew we didn't have a lot, she always seemed to find a way to make something work for me. New basketball shoes for the upcoming season? She would find a way to buy them for me. An upcoming church camp trip? She would find the money to make it happen. She was and is my hero and provided for me when my father never would.

No one in my family has ever been to college. My mother, grandparents, and other family members are all hard-working individuals who earn an honest living. College was something that was always out of reach, primarily because of the financial commitment that was required to attend college. I have earned straight A's since I was in middle school, earned a 32 on the ACT, support my church and community, and recently was selected to serve on my school's student advisory board for school safety. While receiving the trustee scholarship and earning acceptance to Saint Duke's University would be such a great honor, it would more importantly be a life changing event that would put my family's generational trajectory on a different path.