

Dear Bautista Memorial Scholarship,

I sincerely thank you for awarding me this scholarship. Your support financially means so much to me and my family. Growing up in the Pilsen community since I was born has taught me many things: how to value my culture, hard work and supporting one another as a community with people that have a similar background as me and can relate to what it is to be Hispanic. Receiving this support reminds me that others, not just my family, believe in my future as well.

I am currently a sophomore in Cristo Rey Jesuit High School where I am currently working at a company called Belvedere Trading and I am thinking about participating in sport this year like track & field. I enjoy giving back to my community though helping out in my former elementary school, Whittier Elementary School which is right across from Cristo Rey and help out the youth if they need a translator, organizing classrooms, and helping in afterschool activities like volleyball. I not only help in my former school, but also in a program dedicated to helping the youth with homework and expanding their knowledge in different subjects. I also used to go to this after school program when I was younger and it did help me out a lot in not only knowledge but asking for help and making mistakes, and now I want to help them back with my service and dedication of making sure kids understand their work better. These experiences have really shaped my goals in life and inspired me to keep working towards college.

This scholarship means a lot to me and my family because right now we are facing difficult times with not only money and jobs, but also with what's happening in our community with ICE. Going outside these days is barely possible, the jobs of my mom were barely enough for my tuition and she had to pick up a second job to support my family now that my sister is off to college and also is in need of college tuition and money to buy the necessities for her like books and daily products, which means she only slept about 3-4 hours a day. Thanks to this scholarship, my mother has now quit her second job to be around the house more often and not worry about my tuition and take care of herself now both mentally and physically. This scholarship has truly brought peace to my family, especially my mother, that my education supported and covered and motivates me to keep pushing forward to succeed academically. Earning this scholarship has made me feel proud and relieved of myself, knowing that I can continue focusing on my education and not worry too much now about my family financially.

Thank you again for helping me and my family, especially in these difficult times. Your generosity and support remind me that my community and others care about my success, and it inspires me to keep moving forward without worrying about my tuition.

Sincerely,

Karla