

## How Ace Scholarship changed my Future

I grew up with just my single mom and me. I was born with Cystic Fibrosis. After I completed sixth grade, after a month-long hospitalization, mom knew something had to change. She knew I was not engaging in school in the way she knew I was capable. She had recently left her job to become a surgical technologist. My mom did not have a job while attending school, and if not for my Ace Scholarships we could not have afforded private school. My mom wanted me to go to a private school because the classes are smaller. After visiting the school, she noticed it was cleaner, and the administration paid closer attention to how the school could help maintain my health. After meeting with the school principal, nurse and several teachers to explain my disease she realized that the faculty cared and wanted to ensure my health was taken care of in order to keep me healthy. I went from public school until the sixth grade and transferred over to ██████████ in seventh grade. Prior to transferring schools, I was on antibiotics every month, and was hospitalized in the sixth grade for a month. I've only been on antibiotics once since starting private school, and I haven't been hospitalized. My new school has been very attentive because of my cystic fibrosis I need a lot of attention and extra help with homework in school. I do 3-4 hours of airway clearance per day and can sometimes struggle with making time for homework. My new school is great helping me learn how to balance life, my disease, sports, family, faith and school. My grades have improved because the teachers make it easy to talk to them. They ask me questions when they can see I am struggling. It's very important for my health that I stay active to keep my lung function up. Since enrolling in ██████████, I am comfortable participating in sports. I played varsity soccer and swim and I have never felt better physically and mentally. The transition to private school was great because at public school I was bullied and was made fun of for being small and overweight, but at ██████████ I wasn't bullied. Everyone is so nice at my new school; they have an absolutely no bullying tolerance that is strictly enforced. I have also made great friends that are very supportive of my disease and if I ever need anything, they are there for me. I went from having no friends at school to now I have so many good friends. At public school they would call me the sick boy and no one would want to talk to me because they thought I was going to get them sick even after telling them that that is not how CF works. Another good thing about going to ██████████ was that I discovered that I am good at giving speeches. I was always too scared to present in front of people at public school because I was afraid someone would find something else to pick on me about. Now at ██████████ when we are giving speeches, I'm usually the very first to give their speech because I'm more confident now. After going to ██████████ having found my hidden talent of speaking I now have given several speeches about CF to classmates and even a group of doctors at my local hospital. This talent will hopefully get me far in life. None of this would be possible without my scholarship from ACE. My mom works hard to ensure my tuition is covered, but there is no way we could do this without ACE.