

Jaxson Creasey
Leadership essay

I have SMA. It is a neuromuscular disorder in which I have very few anterior horn cells. Put simply, the nerves in my spine do not receive the signal from my brain. Due to my condition I have extremely limited mobility, am restricted to a wheelchair and am unable to partake in any daily activities without assistance. As a result, my family and I have been privileged (and grateful) to receive assistance from numerous organizations over the years. It is this support that triggered my desire to “give back”, to show my appreciation of those who have supported me since the day I was born.

In 2009, when I was in Grade 7, I was a founding member of a campaign (Give It Back campaign) dedicated to giving back to the community. With the help of fellow students and teachers, our sole purpose was to fundraise for various charities and individuals in need. In the first year, our organization of choice was Canuck Place Children’s Hospice in Vancouver. Canuck Place has been a home away from home for my family and I over the years, in that my mom and dad have the opportunity to relax and rest easy knowing that I am being cared for. To our amazement, in just five short months, we raised over \$17,000 mostly through the sales of rubber wrist bands imprinted with the saying “Give It Back”, in addition to a silent auction and numerous other competitions. In the following five years, our fundraising focus included supporting a local family whose child was receiving cancer treatment at BC Children’s Hospital, the Rick Hansen Foundation, Pediatric Cancer and other charitable organizations. Now in its 6th year, my legacy carries on and the campaign continues even though I no longer attend that school. However, I still remain an active participant in the group’s yearly operations. Understandably, I am extremely proud of all that it has accomplished.

Sports are my passion. After studying Business at the University of Victoria and earning my law degree, I hope to one day pursue a career as a sports agent. While physically I cannot participate in active sport, I remain involved in both community and school athletics. For instance, I have managed and coached a volleyball team (junior and senior) since 2008. Presently I am working with the Belmont Senior Boys team. My responsibilities include: booking/attending trips, running practices, recording statistics and liaising between players, parents, fellow coaches and school administrators. In addition to volleyball, I have helped in the coaching of a local basketball team.

Aside from my passion for sports, I am also involved with several charities. Each summer I volunteer at local grocery stores and camps. Working with the Save-On-Foods chain, (formerly Safeway) I have helped fundraise and raise awareness for Muscular Dystrophy, in addition to various cancer organizations. Foundations like Muscular Dystrophy are important to me as they helped my family to purchase our wheelchair-accessible minivan. It is this type of support and action that reinforces my drive to return the favor and pay it forward to others in need.

The charities and other causes for which I fundraise – and spread awareness of – are only incredibly important to me. It has been a part of my life for many years and will continue to be a focus for

as long as I am able. I truly believe that for all that I have received; it is my moral responsibility to return that gift and more.