

- Must be submitted by May 1st of the year you are applying for.

How the Union has Helped Me:

The most impactful way in which the Union has helped my family is by providing my dad with a great job that continually supports me. My dad has always worked extremely hard, and he puts in an exceedingly large amount of overtime hours at his facility. I admire his determination and willingness to work so hard to take care of me and my family. Without the support of the Union, our lifestyle would not be nearly the same as it is now. The Union has given me not only a wonderful upbringing, but also an opportunity to have an accomplished future.

The Union offered me an amazing childhood, and for that I will be forever grateful. I can't remember a time where my dad missed an important event to see me excel in my sports, academically, or in my social life. This year, as Students Against Destructive Decisions Club President, I hosted a Mock Prom Disaster at my high school to bring awareness to the dangers and consequences of driving under the influence, specifically on prom night. This was a huge presentation that I worked very hard on for many months to ensure it went as smoothly and successfully as possible. I coordinated with two fire departments, two ambulance services, Memorial Medflight, a police department, coroner's office, and a local auto salvage and towing company to make the event as real of an accident scene as possible. It was very important to me that my dad saw this presentation, and because of the Union and their support of their members, he was able to attend. The Union has also offered my dad more time to do outside hobbies that he loves, like volunteer firefighting. He has been a firefighter for 12 years, and I just reached my 2 year mark as a firefighter this January. Being able to participate in something so exhilarating with him has been an amazing experience that I will never take for granted.

Not only has the Union provided me with a wonderful upbringing with the support of my dad, but is also paving my way towards a successful future. If not for the Union, I may not have been able to attend my dream school, Valparaiso University, to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. My father is supporting my dreams of becoming a flight nurse both by encouragement and financial support. The Union gave him opportunity for appropriate raises and recognition that he deserved, which in turn will allow me more financial stability in my continuing education. My next four years at Valpo look extremely bright and extremely rewarding. After I obtain my degree, my goal is to work in an ER or trauma facility for a few years to gain experience in clinical emergency medicine. Following that, I want to pursue a career as a flight nurse. Being a flight nurse for trauma and critical care patients is something that I have dreamed of doing, and I am extremely eager to start taking the necessary steps in order to accomplish my goal. My dad has been taking financial steps since I was young, and is continuing to do so every single day. Without the financial support of his job as an electrician, I would not be able to achieve my own dream job.

In conclusion, without the proper support of the Union in providing my dad with exceptional working conditions that are fair whilst also providing him with opportunity for growth, I would not be in the position that I am today. I was never worried financially and could focus on my own important aspects of my life, including having a happy and worry-free childhood, excelling in my academics, and doing things that I loved, like firefighting. The Union has made my life incredibly comfortable. I am so extremely grateful for what The Union has given to me and my family, and am proud to say that I live in a Union household.