

Fulfilling My Dream...College

by Krayton Jones

Like most teenagers, I enjoy playing and watching videos, going to the movies, and just hanging out with my family and friends. All of my life, my immediate family and my village have talked about the importance of getting a good education. At one point in my life, I did not focus on college as much. All I wanted to do is get a job as a fry cook and enjoy life. Of course, that idea was quickly shut down by my parents. They didn't say I couldn't get a job in the food industry; they stressed how much more successful I would be if I had a college degree. Well, I've made the first step, and I am excited to share that I was accepted to The Alabama A&M University. I've completed my first semester as a Food Science major, earning a 3.3 GPA.

Over the years, I have performed community service with my family, church, school, and Boy Scouts that benefited people of various ages and social and economic backgrounds. I've provided care packages for the homeless community twice at my church – Thanksgiving Day breakfast and during the ice storm in 2024. The care packages include toiletries, snacks, and water. One of my most recent and impactful community service act was restriping the parking lot at Indian Creek PB Church's Child Development Center. Since this was my Eagle Scout project, I was responsible for developing the plan, raising money for the project, purchasing the supplies, and instructing the volunteers on how to help me restripe the parking lot. Once the project was completed, the parking spaces were more visible for staff and parents to park their cars.

I am applying for the L.O.I.S. Community Service Award to help pay for my current college expenses. If I am selected to receive this award, it will definitely help me reach my life goals and remove some of the financial burden from my parents, who just finished helping my older brother with some of his college expenses. Any assistance offered would be most appreciated.