

To Whom it May Concern,

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Megan Hoelke for Outstanding Young Citizens Scholarship. I first got the opportunity to know Megan while serving as Outreach Coordinator at Saints John and Paul Parish. During the past 4 years, I have watched Megan grow from into a fearless young woman. We served local charities, traveled on humanitarian trips to Honduras and Costa Rica, and most recently are participating in the Teen Leadership Project.

Megan started her missionary work open and eager to learn. She was always willing to do whatever the team needed. We worked on making meals for the homeless, organizing fundraisers, and lending a hand with a shoe drive. As she grew more confident she gave a moving speech about her experiences to the congregation of over 1,000 people. Megan has always been an asset, but she took on a larger leadership role on our second mission trip to Costa Rica. Megan's caring, empathetic nature adds to her exceptional ability to rally people together. Megan was able to mentor the younger, inexperienced students traveling with us and her spirit boosted the group's morale during long days. Megan is easy to get along with and her comforting words meant a lot to the students that were experiencing such poverty up close for the first time.

There are many sources of stress when traveling with a large group of teenagers and Megan has always been extremely mature in handling difficult circumstances and presents logical solutions under pressure. During our first distribution of shoes to impoverished children in Costa Rica, it was chaotic, loud, and crowded. I watched Megan calmly and confidently delegate tasks and encourage her unsure peers. Her organization skills are outstanding, and she is not afraid to do the dirty work herself. She does not hesitate to control the situation and others are naturally drawn to follow her.

Since these trips, Megan has made an effort to continue developing her gifts in the Teen Leadership Project program that I facilitate. Megan continues to focus on bettering herself and the world around her and makes the most of every opportunity she receives. I have no doubt that she will succeed as she moves to higher education and am certain she will distinguish herself as a leader..

I have no reservations whatsoever in giving Megan my recommendation. I've witnessed her leadership abilities firsthand and believe that she is an intelligent, determined, and confident individual that is deserving of this prestigious honor.

Sincerely,
Jen Katzfey