



2011 HOSA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SPONSOR: NATIONAL CONSORTIUM FOR HEALTH SCIENCE EDUCATION

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Aakash Patel
6910 Laurel Oak Drive
Suwanee, GA 30024

School: South Forsyth High School

Career Goal: Neurosurgeon

College: University of Pittsburgh

GPA: 3.95

Leadership Experience:

Aakash was the vice president of the National Honor Society in 2010. He was the secretary of the Spanish National Honor Society also in 2010. From 2008 to 2011 Aakash was involved with Mu Alpha Theta.



Volunteer Experiences:

In 2010 Aakash helped raise money from local businesses in Malawi, Africa in order to provide 14,000 pencils for children at a school in Malawi. Also in 2010 he attended the largest Autism Walk in the Atlanta area, helping to raise money for Autism Speaks.

Excerpts from Aakash's Essay:

After four years of HOSA membership, four state leadership conferences, and five national leadership conferences, I cannot help but reflect upon my HOSA experiences and how much they have impacted my life. While in HOSA, I learned to care for my community to a greater extent through the various service projects I participated in. Also, my chapter officer positions as reporter and vice-president allowed me to develop essential leadership skills. Finally, as a result of my participation and accomplishments in the competitive events program, I am more confident in my ability to make an impact as a future healthcare professional.

As a HOSA member, I was able to participate in numerous service projects for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, the American Red Cross, and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. However, there was one project I helped organize that really touched me. A close friend of my teacher had a son who was afflicted with autism. Our chapter decided to help raise money so that we could buy the little boy a therapeutic dog which would allow him to effectively cope with autism. Initially, we set a goal of 1,000 dollars. After spreading the word out to the rest of the school and raising awareness for this cause, we had exceeded this goal within just 2 months. The day the woman came to our school to pick up the check changed my life. As we presented her the check, I could see tears rolling down her face. For me, the moment was priceless and one that I will cherish forever. Through this service project, I learned to care more for others. I realized that it is this element of care that captures the beauty of the healthcare profession and is an attribute that I can utilize in all aspects of life, whether it is helping a friend with homework or helping a disabled person overcome a setback. In college, and also in the future, it is my goal to organize service projects like these to help those afflicted by various health disorders and raise awareness for them. As a healthcare professional, I plan to use this element of care to help me connect to my patients and their families.