

# 2022-2023 Tom Arnold Scholarship

Page 1

## Introduction

Indian Hills alumnus Tom Arnold awards two scholarships to Indian Hills students each year. The scholarships award tuition, fees, required books, and required supply costs for one year. In addition, if the winners are students residing in the dormitories, an average of room and board costs will be included as part of the scholarship award.

To be eligible for the scholarships, you must compose a brief written piece (600-1,000 words) on this year's subject theme. An Indian Hills faculty committee will screen initial entries and Tom Arnold will choose the final selections himself.

2022-2023 Theme: *"How have you made a difference in someone's life?"*

### **Please Note:**

You must compose a brief, written piece (between 600-1000 words) following the subject theme established by Tom Arnold.

You should avoid the obscene and exaggerated use of profanities.

The screening committee will eliminate any applications with distracting grammatical, mechanical (spelling and punctuation), and typographical errors from further consideration. Therefore, it is advisable for all applicants to proofread, or have their papers proofread.

The screening committee members will disqualify themselves from judging any entry they have previously seen or proofread.

The two scholarship winners will be contacted by the Indian Hills Foundation Scholarship Coordinator in June with details of their award.

Students will retain all rights to their scholarship entries.

Deadline to complete the essay is **April 4, 2022 at 4:30 pm.**

Essay

How have you made a difference in someone's life?

**DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ANYWHERE ON THE ESSAY.** The screening committee will eliminate any applications with distracting grammatical, mechanical (spelling and punctuation), and typographical errors from further consideration.

Therefore, it is advisable for all applicants to proofread, or have their essay proofread.

Min Length: 600 words

Max Length: 1200 words

## Sweet Dreams

When we knocked on the door of the older-looking house, I didn't know what to expect. This was my first time making a delivery like this. The boy who opened the door had a look of excitement on his face, the way most kids do on Christmas morning. However, we weren't delivering toys, stocking stuffers or even a bike. What we were bringing him was something even better.

Two years ago, I began to volunteer for a new non-profit group in Jones County Iowa. This was a chapter of the national organization Sleep in Heavenly Peace. This organization began in a garage and has spread all across the nation and into Canada. Their motto is "No Child Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town." I learned a lot from my first bed building experience. Volunteers start out with 2 x 4 pieces of lumber. The lumber goes through stations where we cut, sand, drill, stain and apply the SHP brand. In three hours, 20-30 beds can be made. Later, the organizers match up beds with children who need one. My grandma is a bargain shopper and we love finding sales on sheets, comforters and pillows. It is truly a community effort.

My family is not wealthy, but I have never known "need." There was a time in my life when my dad was laid off from his job on the railroad and my mom was undergoing medical treatment. Money was tight and my parents were worried. I never knew, though. We had a nice home, medical care, plenty of food, clothes and toys. My dad took a job as a vacuum cleaner salesman to support us until he was called back. Even in those tough times, we had all the things we needed.. And my twin brother, little sister and I always had a bed! A bed should not be a luxury. A bed is a safe haven. It is a place just for you. In a bed, you can play, snuggle with your stuffed animals, listen to music, read, pray, sleep and most importantly ... dream!

I learned at a young age that volunteering was something that I could do to make a difference in someone else's life. When I was three, my mom was diagnosed with breast cancer. She died when I was nine. Our community came together to support us during her treatment, at the time of her death and even afterwards. They had a fundraiser that helped support my family during the time my dad was laid off. People drove my mom to treatments, offered free babysitting and brought us meals. Volunteers made a difference in our lives. It was not long after my mom died that my family started an annual event to help other families dealing with a cancer diagnosis. We started the Rachel Dales Pumpkin Decorating Contest. People paid a fee to enter a pumpkin painted pink and decorated in the theme of the year. The money raised went to our local hospital's Think Pink campaign. Once we got involved with volunteering, it made us want to do more!

Since then, I have volunteered for a local animal shelter, making lunches for kids during the summer months, HACAP food distribution, school projects and church activities. I enjoy each of these, but the one that really hits home with me is my time with Sleep in Heavenly Peace. I was involved in several "bed builds" before I was asked to help make the bed deliveries. Our job is to take the unassembled bed, put it together in the child's bedroom and put on a new mattress, sheets, comforter and pillow. When we leave, the kids have a safe sturdy bed that will last them for years to come.

I play only a minor part in the work that Sleep in Heavenly Peace does, but it still matters. The little boy who answered the door on the day of my first bed delivery will never remember my name and that is ok. I hope that in a small way, I have made a difference in his life and in the lives of all the children who can sleep soundly in their new beds.