

Tanner Anderson  
4/29/17

Both of my parents who have been in law enforcement have had a significant and much appreciated impact on my life over the years by providing many lessons and instilling solid core values. I have learned that one's career should not be about the money earned, but rather being able to do what you enjoy, which for law enforcement officers is to better the community around them. My father has dedicated 26 years to the Minnetonka Police Department, working as a patrol officer, field training officer, SWAT, K-9 unit, and a Patrol Sergeant since 1990. His devotion to his department and community is evident by him working long hours, extensive overtime, and many holidays. I believe the self-sacrifice that many officers demonstrate is a vital mindset for being a successful police officer. Most people have no idea what the life of an officer entails, and what they must experience. I feel that the general public does not understand what police officers endure and that police officers currently do not get the recognition they deserve. Putting their life on the line every day and enduring the unpredictability of the job is why I respect officers for their bravery in such a dangerous line of duty. In addition, police officers have to deal with the negative stigma that the media has built around police the last few years. This judgement has added to the already existing pressure of the job. Being part of a law enforcement family has taught me the importance self-sacrifice and the value of community service.

When I was younger, I remember my mom and dad never getting to see each other often because one of them worked dayshift and the other worked nights so that one could always be at home taking care of me and my sister. Even though I know it was hard for them not to be able to see each other often, they made huge sacrifices for our family including working long and inconvenient hours, overtime, weekends, and holidays. They did this to support our family and to take care of my sister and I. Even though I didn't realize it when I was younger, I am so thankful

to have been blessed with parents who have been willing to sacrifice their time together in order to raise a family. Both of my parents being involved in law-enforcement has taught me how important family is and to cherish the amount of time we get to spend together. It also taught me to not take the time we have together for granted and to focus on the positive things in life instead of concentrating on the negatives. Even though I can only remember seeing both of my parents together on Christmas morning a few times throughout the years, I feel blessed for being able to spend memorable moments together, and appreciate my family.

As my sister and I have grown up, we have also learned that our family works as a team. We all do our part to keep the flow of daily life at our house running smoothly, including running errands, cleaning, and looking out for each other's best interest. Being part of a law enforcement family has taught me the value of leadership and that everyone needs to pull their own weight in order to make our "team" as a family work. We help each other with tasks and things that need to be done, especially when my dad is working overtime shifts and can't be there to help us. In addition to learning how to pull my own weight and even taking on other's responsibilities when needed, being a part of this family has taught me how to be independent and responsible. I was taught from a young age to take responsibility for my own actions and that has definitely helped me mature over the years. I also learned that the more independence a person has, the more responsibilities come with it.

One of the most important jobs that law enforcement officers have is to protect the general public by enforcing the laws within the community. Despite the officers trying to enforce laws while still treating those people with respect, they are often not respected because the people who are breaking the laws do not want to get in trouble. In these situations, my parents taught me to respect everyone, even if they are being disrespectful and to be the bigger person.

Not all of the stories I hear from my parents are negative. I always enjoy hearing about how they spend their day helping people with in the community on various types of calls and keeping people safe while serving those in need. While growing up as a child of an officer, I have learned that it is good to give back to the community through volunteering in community service. In the past year alone I have volunteered over 100 hours and have raised over three thousand dollars for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Learning to help others through volunteering has even steered me in the direction towards a career in pharmacy which will allow me to help others in the healthcare field. Overall, having two parents involved in law-enforcement has significantly influenced me and help sculpt me into a responsible individual by teaching me many good core values and strengths. I would not trade my family for the world and I'm proud to be a part of a law enforcement family.

### MN Juvenile Officers Association Scholarship Essay

When asked the question, how has a police officer made a positive impact or significant influence on your life? Many affirmative ideas come to mind. This is because I have a great local police department that does a fantastic job at protecting and serving my community. There is not even one incident I know of in which any of the officers acted in a negative manner. But, there is one police officer that has impacted my life far more than another that I have been in contact with. His name is David A. Groves, Chief of the Hartford, WI Police Department. He also happens to be my uncle.

From around the age of thirteen it has been my dream to become a police officer. My interests sparked every time I had a chance to talk to my uncle, Chief Groves. He would tell me stories of all the good and bad things that have happened on the job as a police officer. All of these stories were very interesting to me and I loved hearing them. He even gave me a personal tour of his police department and showed me everything he goes through on a typical day as a police chief. Many of my family members didn't want me to pursue my dream of becoming a police officer. They told me "that job is too dangerous, your grandfather and uncle are dentists, you should be a dentist," But my uncle Dave was always there to tell me to pursue my dream no matter what others might say, you need to choose a career that you will enjoy not necessarily the one that will make you the most money. He also advised me on what educational path is the best for me.

I am planning on getting a bachelor's degree in law enforcement and will be attending Mankato State University starting in the fall of 2017. I want to be a police officer so that I can

directly benefit society and I have always been fascinated with law in general. I will have the opportunity to save lives every day and will help people make better choices. Also, I have never wanted an office job because I don't want to sit down and be inside for the entire length of my career, being a police officer cover those issues. Each day on the job as an officer has the opportunity to be completely different than the next. I will be faced with new challenges and will be responsible for my actions, but I know that after I receive my education I will be ready for anything that comes my way.

MNJOA please consider my application so that I will be able to pay for the education I need to pursue my dream career in law enforcement.

Jack Breitbach

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jack Breitbach".

4/25/17

April 27, 2017

How has a police officer made a positive impact or significant influence on your life and or the lives of others in the community?

There are a few Officers that have had an impact on me but the one that has truly impacted my decision to become a Police Officer is one of the first people I met in my neighborhood when I moved in ten years ago. I am talking about my neighbor Matt Johnson. At the time I did not know how he would impact my life but as the years went on he became someone I knew I could trust to be there for me if I needed someone.

Over the years Matt has been someone I looked up too. He is one of the reasons I have decided to go into the law enforcement field. Matt is the kind of guy who goes above and beyond no matter how crappy his day is. He works as a police officer for the city of St. Joseph. After his day is over he comes home and is right there to be the Dad who gets his kids off to sports. He is a police officer, husband and father and he does all of them so well. There are a couple of times Matt was there for me and my family that made me see what a good kind person he was. My Mom does daycare and had a sids death and Matt was the first person who ran across the street to help my mom. He didn't even think twice he was right there to help. I passed out and Matt was the first face I remember seeing. It truly made me feel safe. The kids at school talk about what a great Policeman he is. They say he makes them feel safe. Growing up I was not close to my Dad and Matt showed me that there are good fathers who take time for their kids. He invited me fishing when he could and has always been there when I needed him.

Why do I mention all of these things about Matt? Because he is the reason I want to go into the law enforcement field. I watch how he is with people and I know how he has gone above and beyond for my family. His hard work and dedication to his family and the community makes me want to follow in his footsteps. He is someone I look up to and admire. He is truly an amazing Police Officer and I have so much more to learn from him. He has helped me in so many ways and inspired me to be a better person. He has done a lot of good in the community and made an impact on so many people. I want to be that Officer that makes a difference in the lives of the people I meet. I want to make a difference in that child's life and help them know that what they do matters. He is my true hero and I admire him for who he is and what he does.

If I can be half the police officer Matt is I know I will be great. He is one of my role models and I thank him for guiding me to become a Police Officer that makes a difference.



Madison Honer  
April 27, 2017