

Dear Student Awards Committee,

Subject: Application for Howard and Marita Boyd Scholarship

According to mathematical law and engineering principles, a half-empty glass is the same as a glass half full. Even though I am a math major, I know they are not the same at all. A glass full speaks to optimism, positivism, and the ability to see potential in filling that other half. My record in volunteerism speaks to my global commitment to help others fill their glasses a little more.

My dedication to volunteerism predates my college career at the University of Waterloo. In 2008, I was too young and inexperienced to aid in the relief efforts of the 2008 earthquake that devastated Sichuan Province. The Sichuan Ya'an Panda Sanctuary was hit hard, and several pandas and staff members were injured or killed. When another earthquake hit Sichuan Province in 2013, I immediately volunteered as a summer intern. My computer proficiency enabled me to update their medical databases for the Sanctuary's wildlife. In addition, I physically cared for the pandas, feeding and nursing them.

In 2013, I also had the opportunity to work with the Ecoteer Project in Malaysia. As a global citizen, I strongly believe in environmental sustainability and the human responsibility to reduce the carbon footprint. On Perhentian Island, Malaysia, I assisted Ecoteer in building bridges between environmentalism and the human impact in marine environmental tourism. I also served as a cultural ambassador, promoting programs about Malaysian culture to tourists. I also hosted workshops to teach local residents English language skills. I firmly believe that this cross-cultural engagement not only builds a collective intellectual effervescence, but also creates stronger bonds between peoples of different backgrounds. Doing so fosters international tolerance and understanding.

More recently, during the 2014-2015 term, I volunteered at Zhejiang No. 2 Hospital in Zhejiang, China. I assisted the hospital staff at every level, from transporting emergency supplies and equipment to assisting security in monitoring facilities. This experience also profoundly shaped my decision to major in finances and risk management. One of my responsibilities was assisting patients in registration, payments, and visitations. Here, I gained a first-hand look of people juggling their bank books, heard their stories of struggling to make ends meet, and seniors wondering what the future held in store. I realized then the importance of finance and risk management on an individual level. I wanted to turn this volunteer experience into my life's work. I wanted to nurture the skills necessary so that the people look at life not as a perpetually half-empty glass, but as a challenge to fill it to the brim—and even fill it over.

Volunteering brought me to where I am today. Even though I have been at the University of Waterloo since 2015, I have demonstrated my abilities in a wide range of achievements. My academic record speaks for itself. My current GPA is ____ and I have earned top marks in my time at Waterloo. I made the Dean's Honour List in 2015 for Excellent Academic Standing, and earned the Presidents Scholarship in 2014. In 2014, I placed in the top 0.4% in the Euclid Mathematics Contest at Waterloo and ranked in the top 2% in the Stanford Math Tournament Team Challenge.

Despite my achievements, I still have much to learn. As I progress through higher education, I understand that my life's work is more than a series of mathematical algorithms and

engineering principles. My volunteering experiences have empowered me to see the world as individual people, each with their own stories in overcoming environmental and human adversities. I look forward to helping more people see their glasses as a little more than half-full.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for reading.

Yours very truly,

Xxx

