December 4, 2020

Eric P. and Teresa Christenson

10819 Misty Lane

St. Paul, MN 55129-5237

Dear Eric and Teresa,

When Ethan DeKam ’21 was 13 years old, he lost his father to cancer. “The members of the medical profession who took care of him took care of our entire family as well,” said Ethan. “They were there for us at a very difficult time; that really motivated me. I want to be able to give back like that to others. Hopefully, I can make a real difference in people’s lives.”

Ethan has pursued that goal at Saint John’s, where he is a biology major on a pre-physician assistant track. He is also a Health Initiative Facilitator on campus, the team captain on the SJU EMT Squad, sings in the acapella group Johnnie Blend, and studied abroad in Austria.

His father’s death left his mother a single parent with three sons to put through college. Ethan said scholarships helped make the Saint John’s experience possible. He receives the Francis and Helen Jordan and Jere and Sylvia Knight Scholarships, a President’s Scholarship and a Recognition Scholarship.

“My mom never made us feel like money was a factor,” Ethan said. “She always said we’d find a way to go where we wanted to go. The scholarships I received helped tremendously.”

Student Fund donors like you helped make it possible for Johnnies like Ethan to return to campus in numbers larger than last year, despite many families facing financial strife. Your gift will continue to support the transformative education that Saint John’s provides and the students who possess incredible aspirations.

In this spirit, I ask you to kindly consider renewing your NOTES gift of $ASK for Student Fund scholarships. Your financial support will inspire Saint John’s students like Ethan to achieve their goals.

Thank you for everything you do for Saint John’s. I wish you a peaceful holiday season.

Sincerely,

Ted Kain ’12

Director of Annual Giving

Institutional Advancement

P.S. Consider becoming a Johnnie Sustainer today at [www.sjualum.com/giveSJU](http://www.sjualum.com/giveSJU).