



2015 Scholarship Recipients

“If you’re not willing to learn, no one can help you.
If you’re determined to learn, no one can stop you.”

Zig Ziglar

In 2015, 130 applications were received from 6 different regions... all HFE employees or eligible dependents determined to learn by pursuing a higher education.

A record amount of \$85,000 will be distributed to 36 recipients who receive a SIF Scholarship for the 2015-2016 school year. And, since the first scholarship awards were presented in Fall of 2011, Share It Forward has given over a quarter of a million dollars in scholarship awards. This has all been possible due to the generosity of employees, HFE Corporation and the Herschend Family!

In comments received by the recipients, many made mention that had it not been for the encouragement and prodding of their leads or supervisors, they never would have applied. These leaders continued the “culture of caring,” which is the heart of Share It Forward and Herschend Family Entertainment. A big thanks to each of you who believed in the potential of your team members and inspired them to dream big!

Please join us in congratulating these unstoppable learners and big dreamers as they pursue their desire of a higher education!

We are honored to present the 2015 Share It Forward Scholarship Recipients...



Rebecca Derby - Dollywood

Beginning her sophomore year at Belmont University, Rebecca will be majoring in Biology with an emphasis on Pre-Allied Health and a minor in Chemistry. “I feel like this major will allow me to incorporate what I love – science, along with what I feel is most important in life – helping others,” shares Rebecca. “My mom is a Senior Team Lead at Dollywood and she was my inspiration to apply for the scholarship.” Rebecca’s dream is to one day become a Pediatric Physician’s Assistant with the hope of helping children get the best medical care and attention they can. “I am greatly appreciative of this opportunity and it means so much knowing that the team I work with every day and other HFE teams across the nation are united in support of my own dreams.” Rebecca has been a host at Dollywood’s Splash Country for two years.



Samantha Ellison – Dollywood

Samantha was encouraged by her supervisor to apply for the scholarship. She will be attending Walter’s State Community College as a freshman this fall where she’ll study Pre-Dental Hygiene. “There is always going to be a need for dental services and I think this is my best opportunity to help people,” expressed Samantha. “The scholarship will assist me in paying for my first year, furthering my education and fulfilling my hopes for my career. My dream is to finish school and get a dental hygiene job in my hometown.” A 2nd year host at Dollywood’s Splash Country, Samantha shares, “I would like to thank everyone who donates to this great organization to make this scholarship possible!”

Danielle Henning – Dollywood

Attending University of Tennessee this year as a junior, Danielle will be majoring in Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management (Hospitality Management). “I love the excitement in the attractions and tourism industry,” she stated. “It is so much fun for everyone and what better way is there to help others and myself enjoy it, than to serve in the industry.” When asked about her dreams, Danielle shared, “I dream of one day managing a crazy, awesome amusement park that brings families and friends closer together and allowing them to share the passion for the industry as well.” In thanking donors for the award, Danielle said, “There are simply not enough words to express how grateful I am for the SIF scholarship. I feel as if a huge weight has been lifted off my shoulders and I am now able to focus on school rather than work. I am so very thankful for everyone who has made this program possible. Danielle has been a host at Dollywood for two years.





Boone Huffaker – Dollywood

A second year scholarship recipient, Boone will begin his sophomore year at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Majoring in Economics with a minor in History, he shares, “I love the subjects and am very interested in them. My plan is to pursue a teaching license and become certified to teach at the High School level. I also hope to apply my skills in the mission field.” In a word of thanks, Boone said, “I would like to thank all those who have given to the Share It Forward program for their generosity. Their gifts are truly a blessing to myself and all those in need throughout the company. I encourage everyone to lend a hand for their neighbor. The SIF donors, no matter how big or small, have become a part of a great program touching the lives of students and families throughout the company.” Boone is a host at Dollywood’s Splash Country and Lifeguard Instructor/Pool Supervisor at Dream More Resort and has been with HFE for four years.



Elizabeth Purkey – Dollywood

Elizabeth will attend Walters State Community College this fall as a sophomore. She chose Nursing as her major because it will give her the opportunity to educate, provide care and change lives. Her hope for the future is to graduate with her degree and one day teach nursing. Elizabeth says her entire team has supported her in returning to school and gives a big thanks to the entire Dollywood Safety/Security team! In a word of thanks to SIF donors, she shares, “Donating to SIF changes lives...I am proof of this. Giving even a small donation has a BIG impact! This scholarship has provided me and my family possibilities we were not sure were possible. Dreams do come true, because of all of you! Than you so much!” Elizabeth has been at Dollywood for 3 years.



Patrick Williams – Dollywood

Beginning his second semester as a sophomore, Patrick will be majoring in Computer Science. “I have been interested in computers for a long time and find programming fun” he stated. “I hope to someday work for a major computer company such as Google.” The financial assistance will enable him to acquire books needed along with paying for a portion of his tuition. “I would like to thank all the contributors to SIF Scholarship funds that are making my dreams become more of a reality. This scholarship will help me concentrate on my studies towards my BS degree without worrying about how to pay for it.” Patrick’s mother, a Dollywood Host for four seasons, inspired him to apply for the scholarship.



Jennifer East – Newport Aquarium

Receiving the SIF scholarship for the second year in a row, Jennifer will begin the second semester of her clinical rotation for the nursing program. "I have always wanted to be a nurse just like my grandmother was," shares Jennifer whose major is LPN (Practical Nursing)/ RN (Registered Nurse) along with taking classes for a BSN. "I want to work in the fast paced Emergency Room at a Level 1 critical care/trauma center." The scholarship will be a huge help to Jennifer as the next two semesters will be more in depth and challenging which will require her to drop back to part time at her job. "I would just like to say thank you and that your donation to SIF is greatly appreciated!" Her #1 supporter is her husband, an HFE employee working at Ride The Ducks in Newport, KY.



Alec Hazeres – Newport Aquarium

Attending Western Kentucky University as a freshman this fall, Alec has chosen Business Marketing as his major because he likes sales and working with people! "This scholarship will help me achieve my goal of paying for college by myself. I really wanted to keep the bill of college off of my parents because they have already done so much for me," says Alec. "Thank you guys so much. Your generosity changes several young adult lives by giving them this amazing support." Alec's mother, an employee with Newport Aquarium, encouraged him to apply for the award.



Sarah Schlueter – Newport Aquarium

Majoring in Veterinary Technology, Sarah will attend the University of Cincinnati Blue Ash as a first semester freshman. "I chose this program because ever since I was a child, I told my parents I wanted to work with animals. Even throughout high school, working with animals was my dream job," shares Sarah. Her plan is to finish her program and find a job as a vet tech for a few years and then work her way to further her career with animals. "To all who donate to the Share It Forward program to make this all possible... thank you!"



Ashley Bauer – Silver Dollar City

A first year scholarship recipient, Ashley will begin her sophomore year at Southwest Baptist University where she'll continue her studies as an Elementary Education major with an emphasis on Early Childhood. "I decided to pursue a degree in education because of my passion for kids," shares Ashley. "My hope is that I'll be a teacher who is able to encourage kids to be excited about learning and excited about life." Thankful for the scholarship, she shares, "I would like to personally thank everyone that makes the SIF scholarship possible. You truly are changing lives for so many young people around the country. I am so honored and so thankful to be one of this year's scholarship recipients." Ashley's dad, Bub Bauer, has been with Silver Dollar City for 37 years.



Kristi Brummett – White Water

Majoring in Business Administration, Kristi will be a junior this fall at Columbia College. "I chose Business Administration because it's a well-rounded major that will provide a strong knowledge base allowing for many opportunities. After joining the White Water team as the Administrative Assistant, my aspirations were confirmed," states Kristi. When asked who has inspired her, she shares, "My mom is a huge inspiration to me. She has been a constant source of support and encouragement as I continue my education...she has never once given up on me." In thanking donors she says, "We work for an amazing company that allows us to help out fellow employees when they are in need, and I will always remember what has been done for me." Kristi has been with HFE for 5 years and her mother Sonya has been with SDC for 16 years.



Katie Cook – Silver Dollar City

A second year scholarship recipient, Katie will attend Ozarks Technical College this fall as a sophomore, majoring in Hospitality Management. "I love working at Silver Dollar City and decided to make it a career," she shares. "My attractions family has inspired me to further my education and wants to help me succeed and go as far as I want to. My hope is to work in the Hospitality Industry, preferably theme parks." This award will help Katie pay for books, supplies and gas; she drives an hour each way to school. Truly grateful for the scholarship, she shares, "I want to thank everyone for helping me make my dreams come true. I am debt free from college because of the Share It Forward scholarship." Katie has been with SDC for four years. Her father Warren, is a master craftsmen and has been with the company 16 years.



Lorie McCammon – Silver Dollar City

A four-time scholarship recipient, Lorie will begin her senior year at Missouri State University, majoring in Middle-School Math and minoring in History. She has a passion to teach and enjoys interacting with the middle school age group. “I dream of teaching a child who struggles with math... helping them to get to the place where they eventually love math,” Lorie shares. Her husband, an 8 year employee of SDC, urged her to apply for the award. “Marty has encouraged me and kept my spirits up when times are tough. Without him I could not have gotten where I am today.” Thankful, she shares, “To people who donate to the SIF program, thank you. Without people like you, my life would be a lot more stressful. The donation helps in so many ways; I can now focus on my studies without worrying about working extra hours to pay for school.”



Michelle McIntosh – Silver Dollar City

A third-year scholarship recipient, Michelle has been member of the SDC Foods team since the spring of 2013 and currently works in the Mill Restaurant. She’ll begin her junior year this fall when she returns to Ozarks Technical College majoring in Culinary Arts. “I enjoy making people happy with food. This was carried over to me by my mother who has given pleasure to so many people over the years,” she shares. “I want to bring new flavors to the kitchens of SDC with the culinary skills I learn and I dream of one day, opening my own restaurant.” The whole process of going back to school and receiving scholarships have been a huge blessing to Michelle and her children. “God has blessed me through your giving. I never dreamed that I would go to college. It’s also been a tool to inspire my kids that if I can do it, they can too! It’s impacted all of our lives. Thank you!”



Amy Nelson – Silver Dollar City

Beginning her junior year at Missouri State University this fall, Amy will continue her studies majoring in Cell & Molecular Biology. “When I left high school, I decided to become a medical doctor but wasn’t sure why. I found out when I became an EMT at SDC. Here, I have learned how passionate I am about helping people and how much meaning there is in patience and kindness,” Amy states. “During my time here, I have realized that medicine is a great median to show compassion through... something I learned from the leaders around me.” She is overwhelmingly thankful for Kim and Phyllis in First Aid. “These are two people who truly care. I’ve never considered my time in First Aid to be work – but a place to grow and learn because I was always surrounded by people willing to sacrifice to help me.” Full of thanks, she shares, “It’s hard to describe that feeling when someone helps you. Thank you so much for investing in my life. I truly appreciate this opportunity.”



Abraham Pascoe – White Water

Pursuing a double major in Mathematics and Christian Studies, Abraham will be a senior at Southwest Baptist University this fall. “My future dreams are to help those who do not understand math, so I plan to become a math professor,” he says. His White Water team has been a big inspiration to continue in his education. “Shirley Riddle and James Smith have cheered me on for the last four years, encouraging me to continue my education and achieve my dreams.” In a word of thanks he shares, “Thank you so much for this generous donation. I can not explain to you how much you are helping me achieve my dream. I greatly appreciate the sacrifice you are making for me. Thank you!” Abraham has been at White Water for four years.



Kinzee Penner – Silver Dollar City

This fall, Kinzee will begin her freshman year at Missouri State University where she’ll be majoring in Elementary Education and minoring in Spanish. “I chose this major because I love watching kids grow into their own skin comfortably,” she shares. “My plan is to help kids grow not only intellectually, but as human beings. I want to teach in less fortunate countries... to see kids reach goals and accomplish things they never dreamed about.” She tells us her co-workers have been a huge inspiration to further her education. “They always want what is best for me and they won’t stop until they know that I have gotten it.” Going much further than just paying her tuition, Kinzee says, “This award will help me become a much better person and the chance to grow by learning how to help other people. Without it, I would not be able to go to college and pursue my lifelong dream.” Kinzee is in her second season, currently at SDC. Her mom and her grandmother are both in their second year at White Water.



Brandilyn Roussel – Silver Dollar City

A three-time scholarship recipient, Brandilyn will be a junior this fall at Missouri State University. “I chose History Education as my major because I believe in informing our future generations that we must learn from the mistakes and successes of the past to create a better future,” she states. “This scholarship is the biggest support I have to help me complete my goal of graduating debt free. I would like to thank all those who make this incredibly generous scholarship possible. I am forever grateful.” Brandilyn’s dad, Phillip, has been with SDC for 5 years.



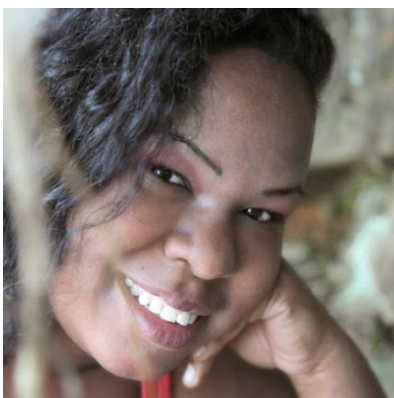
Ifeoluwa Ayodele – Stone Mountain Park

A Senior at Georgia State University, it's always been Ayodele's passion to help people who cannot help themselves... especially in the medical field. That's what led her to major in Biology with a Pre-Med Track. She has two thoughts on her future goals; to become a pediatrician or get a masters in biology and work for the CDC. "My sister, Sunimisola, works at SMP and urged me to apply for a position there. Without her, receiving this scholarship would never have happened," shares Ayodele. "To the people who make the SIF Program possible, I truly appreciate all that you have done. Your kind of generosity is what the world needs today to make it better. You might not know it, but you are helping people across the country make their dreams come true. Thank you for investing in my future!" This is Ayodele's first season at SMP.



Sharzah Bhuiyan – Stone Mountain Park

Beginning her Junior year at Georgia State University, Sharzah will pursuing a BBA in Managerial Sciences. "Business has always been a field that has interested me. It's growing fast all around the world leading to endless opportunities," she stated. When asked about applying and receiving the scholarship, she shares, "My aunt, who actually works in the park, encouraged me to apply for the scholarship last year. She told me that the Herschend Family works really hard to make the employees feel appreciated. Her positivity pushed me towards taking a chance and applying for a scholarship. This is my second year to receive the award and I would like to thank everyone who donated to SIF from the bottom of my heart. I will be forever grateful to every single person that donated to the future of others." Sharzah has worked at SMP for 2 ½ years.



SaSha Deal – Stone Mountain Park

Attending Life University this fall as a Junior, SaSha will continue her studies majoring in Psychology and minoring in Coaching Psychology. "I chose this career path because I enjoy bringing awareness and knowledge to others. I like to focus on the positive in people and show them how capable, bright and resourceful they are and always have been," she shares. "My dream is to develop and deliver a creative way of getting people to move forward in a positive light. I hope to get my Doctorate with a focus on Art Therapy and Positive Psychology. In a word of thanks she says, "I would love to thank all of the caring and generous people who made this possible... it truly means so much. This award has given me a fighting chance in succeeding and to share it forward in the future."



Chynna Edwards – Stone Mountain Park

Attending Clayton State University, Chynna is a second year recipient and will begin her Senior year this fall. “I’m majoring in Mass Communications with a minor in English. I chose this major and minor because I would like to go into film production, and I feel as though these majors will help me achieve this in life,” says Chynna. “My dream is to one day be able to produce my own major film.” The scholarship will enable her to live on her own and be financially stable without going into debt during her last year of college. “I would like to thank every person who has donated to this organization to make the scholarship program possible, because they have allowed me to receive a gift, twice, that has humbled me and pushes me to strive for greatness.” This is Chynna’s fourth year at SMP.



Breeahna Gresham – Stone Mountain Park

Beginning her Junior year, Breeahna will be attending Clark Atlanta University. “I chose to major in Criminal Justice because I dream of one day becoming a District Attorney and developing programs for children so they will be better assisted and not end up in the system,” she shared. When asked if anyone encouraged her to apply for the award, she was happy to share that her supervisor Sabrina was a great mentor and believed in her potential and told her to go for it. “I’d like to thank everyone who donates to SIF. I donate and I never dreamed that I would one day benefit from receiving a scholarship. Thank you!” This is Breeahna’s fourth year at SMP.



Raven Holmes – Stone Mountain Park

A second year scholarship recipient, Raven will attend the University of West Georgia this fall as a Junior. Majoring in English Education and minoring in Spanish, she loves working with children. “Working with children comes easy to me. I know how to connect and understand them,” she says. “My dream after obtaining my bachelor’s degree is to teach English abroad in various countries. Upon returning to the United States, I plan to open my own private school that specializes in children’s future careers. This will enable them to explore their careers which still in high school to further minimize and possibly eliminate high school and college drop outs.” In a word of thanks, she shares, “Thank you so very much for giving students the opportunity to continue our journey through college. With this scholarship, we are able to further our education and better plan for our future.” Raven has been with SMP for 2 ½ years.



Mariah Jackson – Stone Mountain Park

Mariah is very excited to be a Junior at Georgia State University where she'll begin the Nursing Program this fall. "It has always been my passion to take care of others," she said. When asked if anyone at HFE has influenced her to apply for a scholarship, she shared "My supervisor, Alice, has been very influential on furthering my education and applying for the scholarship. If there is anything I need from her school-related, she is happy to assist. She often checks to see how school is going for me and was equally excited when I was accepted into the nursing program. My lead and assistant lead have also been very encouraging." Greatly appreciative of SIF donors, this is Mariah's third year at SMP.



Darrian Johnson – Stone Mountain Park

Attending Georgia Perimeter College as a Freshman this fall, Darrian will focus on his prerequisite courses to enable him to transfer to Auburn after his sophomore year where he plans to major in Electrical and Computer Software Engineering. "I chose this major because I find it to be very beneficial towards our future. I find it interesting that the same mechanics as to how we humans are built can apply to computers and other electronic appliances," he states. "One day, I hope to build a device that will reduce the effects of chemotherapy on cancer patients and a device to cure diabetes." The strong support of his managers and co-workers at the 4-D theater inspired Darrian to apply for the scholarship. He shares in a word of thanks, "I'd like to thank everyone who donated to SIF and made this award possible, not only for me but for others in the future. You are all very appreciated. Thank you!" This is Darrian's first year at SMP.



Kira Kulp – Stone Mountain Park

Majoring in Theatre and Accounting, Kira will attend Harding University where she'll be a Sophomore this fall. "I chose to major in theatre because I have always loved performing and entertaining audiences. I chose to major in accounting because I know there is a lot of competition for roles, so I'll use my love of math to be able to pay bills between acting jobs," exclaimed Kira. "With my double major, I wish to make a difference in the entertainment industry by being involve in making high quality movies and TV shows that are fun for the whole family." Kira would like to thank everyone who donates to SIF. "This scholarship has been an incredible blessing to me as I get to attend my dream school. Thank you for making this dream come true!" This is Kira's first year at SMP.



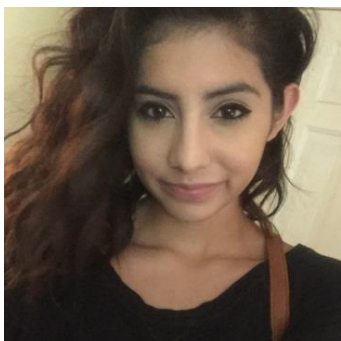
Destiney Maylor – Stone Mountain Park

Attending University of Georgia this fall where she'll be a Freshman, Destiney will be majoring in Pharmaceutical Sciences with a minor in Global Health. "I plan on becoming a Pharmacologist in the future, creating cures and treatments that are deemed incurable and not treatable," she shares. "My main goal is to aid in the demolition of world wide disease one step at a time. Eventually, I plan on opening up my very own research facility and even start my own foundation to raise money for pharmaceutical research." Without this scholarship, Destiney would not be able to attend University of Georgia. "Because of SIF, I will be the first in my family to go to college. I am extremely grateful and humble to be a recipient of this award. I can't thank you all enough." Destiney has been with SMP for one year.



Astha Patel – Stone Mountain Park

Astha will be a Freshman this fall at Georgia Gwinnett College. "I'm majoring in Management Information Systems," she shares. "I've always been interested in computers but I was looking into business as a major. Management Information Systems is a perfect major for me because it involves both technology business." After obtaining her BBA, she plans to pursue her MBA and one day fulfill her dream of working for IBM. "This scholarship will help me pay for tuition, books and everything. My parents will also be more relaxed towards the money aspect of everything. I am really thankful to all the people who have donated to this organization. It helps out a lot of students with their college tuition and makes their parents proud of what their children have achieved." Astha's father, Vipulkumar Patel, has been an employee of SMP for one year.



Perla Rincon – Stone Mountain Park

Kennesaw State University is where Perla will begin her Freshman year in college. Majoring in International Business and minoring in Psychology, she wants to work with people from all over the world. "My career dream is to love what I do everyday and become very successful in the business industry," she stated. All of Perla's managers notified her of the scholarship and encouraged her to apply. "This scholarship will help me tremendously with my supplies with college such as text books," she shares. "I am very grateful to those who donate to SIF. Many students such as myself have the fear of not being able to pay for college and having to take out loans. But scholarships like this one, make our lives a little bit easier." Perla is in first season at SMP.



Isaiah Shaw – Stone Mountain Park

Attending Georgia Perimeter College, Isaiah will be a Freshman this fall. “I’m majoring in Business Administration, a major I chose because I want to develop business skills needed to own my own business and also to have options of business-related careers,” he states. “My dream is to one day work in the business side of the music industry and possibly develop new business ideas for that industry.” The scholarship will not only contribute towards financing my education, but will also allow him everything he needs as he begins his college career. In thanking donors he shares, “I want to thank everyone who has donated to SIF and made this award possible. This is the first scholarship I’ve ever won, and I will be forever grateful for it! It means so much to further my education.” Isaiah is in his first season with SMP.



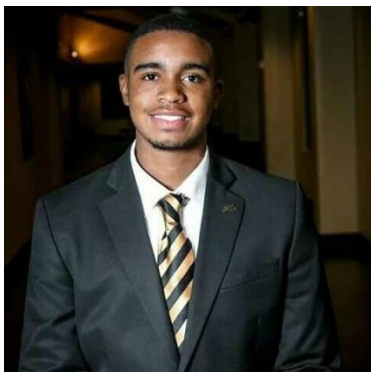
Courtney Williams – Stone Mountain Park

Courtney will attend Georgia Gwinnett College this fall as a Freshman where she’ll major in Business. “I would love to own my own hair salon one day and use as a mentoring program to give back to the community,” she shared. She also said that many of her leads and the HR staff encouraged her to apply for the scholarship. “I’m really thankful for the scholarship. It is definitely being used wisely. Hearing stories of people who have been helped by SIF, you don’t really believe how much it can help until you need it. When you are the recipient of such generosity, you’re very grateful.” Courtney has been at SMP for 2 years.



Brianna Kilpatrick – Wild Adventures

A second year scholarship recipient, Brianna will begin her Junior year at Wiregrass Georgia Technical College. Studying to be a Radiology Technologist, Brianna shares, “Radiology fascinates me and I want to be able to help doctors treat and cure patients with their medical conditions.” When asked who was her inspiration to apply for the award, she said, “My dad... he has inspired me a lot over the years and I want to make him and my mom proud.” In a word of thanks she had this to say, “I would like to thank all those who donate to SIF for helping those like me, make their dreams come true. I would also like to thank HFE for starting the SIF program. I feel blessed that my dad works for such a wonderful, awesome corporation like HFE, that cares about their employees and their families.” Brianna’s dad has been with Wild Adventures for 5 years.



Adrian Lewis – Wild Adventures

Beginning his senior year at Valdosta State University this fall, Adrian will continue studying for his major in Exercise Physiology. “This major provides an opportunity for me to gain hands on experience that will help take my career path to new heights,” exclaims Adrian. “My first plan is to graduate with my Bachelor’s degree in Exercise Physiology. My next step is to hopefully pursue a master’s degree at the University of Georgia. Concentrating on health policy and management with a key emphasis within the public health sector, I then plan to enter the Air Force as a healthcare administrator and hopefully make that my career.” “Overall, I am truly thankful for receiving this award. SIF’s support to help fund this scholarship will help open doors for me that were once closed. This is a major blessing to me because it will help me reach a milestone in my life that I thought at one point faded away.” This is Adrian’s first season at Wild Adventures.



Aaliyah Williams – Wild Adventures

A junior at Valdosta State University, Aaliyah will continue her major in Nursing this fall. “In 2009 my granddad was ill and the health care he received was less than to be desired. That’s what inspired me to be a nurse... to provide the quality and compassionate care people need when they are ill,” shares Aaliyah. “After obtaining my degree in nursing, my dream is to continue my education and become an Obstetrician.” Inspired by her supervisor Tracy, she says, “My supervisor inspires me every day and encouraged me to apply for the award. Pursuing a nursing degree is very expensive. Without the scholarship I would have to change my major.” Thankful, she shares, “Thank you to everyone who gives to this organization. Without you, I would not be able to follow my dreams.” This is Aaliyah’s second season at Wild Adventures.



Nicholas Millar – Wild Adventures

Nicholas will begin his junior year this fall at Valdosta State University where he’ll continue his studies to obtain a degree in Computer Science. “I enjoy working with new technologies and want to work in a field that is constantly growing,” says Nicholas. His dream is to own a company one day. When asked if someone at HFE had inspired him to further his education, he shared, “My manager, Nick Hinson, is always pushing me to do better in everything I do. He always holds me accountable to what I tell him I am going to do – whether it’s at work or in my personal life.” In a word of thanks to SIF donors, he shares, “I am more than grateful for this scholarship as it has enabled me to attend school this semester and next.” Nicholas has been with Wild Adventures for two years.

“Let’s not merely say that we love each other;
let us show the truth by our actions.”

1 John 3:18

