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Gifts that make a difference

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I decided to come to Furman in the spring of my senior year of high school, and that was and is a decision in which I take much pride. Having been here for two years, I know that Furman has been and will continue to be a place of personal growth and achievement. My education could not have been possible without the financial aid I received through the donations of alumni.

Upon inquiring in the Development Office, I was surprised to learn that the money for my scholarship comes directly from alumni donations: the $5 and $10 donations to the university. It amazed me that so many in the Furman family have given so that I might attend this school. That knowledge makes me appreciate my education even more than I already do.

I have been afforded the opportunity to be a part of many extracurricular programs, live in campus housing, and work closely with the faculty and staff. I feel that I have been a part of many facets of campus life.

In the past two years I have been a FRAD (Freshman Advisor), a peer tutor in the psychology department, a Psychology Club member, and a member of the Student Board of Communications. I was recently inducted into Alpha Epsilon Delta (the premedical honor society) and Psi Chi (the national honorary society in psychology). I have served as the treasurer of the Student Alumni Council and am beginning my second year as the editor-in-chief of the Bonhomie. This is just one example of the small impact an individual can have on this campus—and thankfully, it was made possible through scholarship money.

I was taking photographs beside the lake during Homecoming last year and saw two married Furman alums. They had their three boys with them and were trying to take a family picture in front of the Bell Tower. The mother, obviously having a difficult time rounding up three boys, was becoming frustrated with the whole process. I stepped in and volunteered to take the photograph for them.

In taking that picture, I realized that life truly does run in cycles. In a few short years, I will be a Furman alum, and one day my family and I will be trying to take our own picture in front of the Bell Tower. I hope that I can make a difference in the life of even one student in the same way that alumni and alumni giving have made a difference in my education here at Furman University.

— Mac McArthur

The author is a rising junior from Spartanburg, S.C.