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Grade 12
DFCA Scholarship Essay

Four years ago when I signed up for the Drug Free program, I never actually anticipated that it would make an impact on my life or my environment. Some people that had joined the club called it "a tool for parents to monitor their child's actions," and these same people claimed it had little effect on a person being drug free. I always knew that I'd never experiment or use drugs at all in my life, but I found it as a good way to express my stance to others. Therefore, I never thought much of the club. Overtime, I came to realize that the club stood for much more than a bargaining tool to get out of a tight situation. The club stood in part to unite others and let them know that there were other drug free students out there.

Originally, I thought of the club as only a way to express my desire to remain clean and safe during high school. As a young, naive freshman, I didn't believe that many high schoolers around me in my area actually participated in any kind of drug usage. Growing up under a narcotics officer taught me the importance of staying away from these harmful substances. I always knew that there were adults out there that were harming themselves by taking illicit or dangerous substances. Yet, it didn't occur to me that a large portion of high school students would try or sport a narcotics substance at one point in their life. Even though the club was still new at the time, I believed that it wouldn't be hard or even a difficult decision for students to sign up. For members, the benefits it provided-discounts at restaurants, free snacks, and free giveaways-seemed like a no brainer for students. I created this early picture of the club in my mind, but I realized overtime that the club existed for several purposes, one of which remained elusive until recently.

As time went on, I came to realize that the club also existed in part to help show to other members or students that there are people actively taking a stand against drug use. This club shows that some students aren't alone in their endeavor to remain drug free and gives confidence to this elite group. Even though some kids that remain drug free aren't in this group, the simple fact the group exists can give confidence to this minority to let them know that they aren't alone. For some people, the choice to take a stand against drug use comes easy, and the club only acts to reward them for their behavior. For others, the club serves as a reminder that there are other people that choose to remain drug free, and this understanding allows students on the fence to remain drug free. Also, I came to realize that this club can help inspire a small few that do partake in drugs to reconsider their actions. Students that grow up or become surrounded by drug usage in their environment can have an outing through the DFCA program. I came to realize this when active drug users joined the club and either quit drug usage or reduced their actions.

Overall, being part of the drug free club has made me realize that these organizations don't exist to just help people become or remain drug free. DFCA allows students to become part of a community that inspires hope into others. Through this organization, fellow students can unite through a common interest to become an example to other students and the world around them that being drug free is possible.