

McKenley Dieudonne

Student Achievement Award



McKenley Dieudonne is an exceptionally bright and talented student who has demonstrated remarkable integrity, wisdom, and resolve in the face of personal obstacles. Shortly after immigrating to the United States, McKenzie's parents divorced, significantly changing his home life and living situation. McKenzie struggled to deal with these hardships, and his personal grief impacted every area of his life.

Despite these challenges, McKenzie was eager to mentor a special education class in his school through the Overcoming Obstacles Buddy Mentoring Program, which trains seventh and eighth graders to become mentors and facilitate character-building activities with younger students in their schools.

The mentors found it particularly difficult to communicate with this class, but McKenzie remained determined to work with the students. He relied on visual aids to effectively deliver the Overcoming Obstacles program's life skills instruction. While working to facilitate the program's activities, McKenzie discovered and used his leadership and teamwork skills to help his class.

Through this process, McKenzie was able to hone his communication skills, which he used to reach out to teachers, guidance counselors, friends, and family for help and support with his personal problems. Passionate and creative, today McKenzie uses his strong communication skills to channel his emotions through the music he writes.

McKenley credits the Overcoming Obstacles program with teaching him the vital life skills he needed to face the challenges he endured in his personal life. These skills enhanced his academic achievement, as evidenced by his perfect attendance record and high marks.

McKenley graduated with honors from PS 109 in Brooklyn last spring, and now attends Clara Barton High School. Community for Education Foundation is proud to support his dreams of a career in dentistry with the Jack L. Siegal Memorial Scholarship.