



November 13, 2017

Dear Friend,

My name is Skyler and I am 16 years old. This will be the second Christmas I am spending at St. Mary's Home for Children. While being at St. Mary's and away from my brother and sister is not my choice, I am happy that the holidays are made special for me and the other children. If I was home, we would be having a turkey on Christmas Day along with stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes and other yummy food. While I am here at St. Mary's, I enjoy all the same traditions so it does feel like home. We decorate the tree and we all make ornaments and the staff who are with me make a special breakfast and we have a pajama party. We even put scented sticks on the tree so it smells real.

Since I have been at St. Mary's I have found my voice and have developed leadership skills. I participate on many committees and speak at staff trainings so people will know how the children feel. I even help write policies for our staff to follow.

While I know I am learning and growing while I am here, I would really like to be with my family if I could, but understand that I can't. I know I have a promising future ahead of me and would someday like to go to college to become a veterinarian. I love cats and all animals and would like to be able to help them.

People who donate during the holiday season may not see the smiles on our faces, but I want them to know that we really appreciate their generosity.

Sincerely,

Skyler

*Skyler is just one of the many children who will be away from family this holiday season. Would you please consider a gift that will make this time of year shine brighter for children in our care?*