



Photo by Devon Duke

## **Drex Adams Turns Hardship to Hard Work**

At just 17 years old, Drex Adams has been forced to cope with so much more than most of his peers. It was just over six years ago that Drex, now a senior at Grace Christian School, was driving with his father to a National Sporting Clays Competition in Springfield, MO. In the blink of an eye his life changed. A horrific automobile accident took the life of his father and left Drex with broken ribs, a broken arm, and a compression fracture in his spine. He lost his appendix, gall bladder, duodenum, and portions of his pancreas and small intestine. Today, Drex is fully recovered, but still dealing with the loss of his father.

Despite everything Drex has had to deal with, and the time he spent away from school recovering, Drex maintains excellent grades and

continues to give to the community. Over the past year Drex has been volunteering at his church every week, supervising children with special needs during Sunday School. He has also volunteered time at Bean's Café and the Soup Kitchen as well as at the pediatric ward at the hospital encouraging children during recovery. Drex is so appreciative of the people who have helped him over the years and views volunteering as a way to pay it forward.

After high school, Drex aspires to follow in his father's footsteps by studying engineering. While unsure of which area, Drex is leaning towards electrical, mechanical, or chemical engineering. He also wishes to use his public speaking skills to inspire others in overcoming hardships.

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**GREAT KIDS**

***A salute to the youth of Anchorage from the Office of the Mayor, the Anchorage Daily News, AT&T, and the University of Alaska***