



## **Lucy Sagaga**

Lucy Sagaga is a great example of what students can achieve when, despite serious challenges and numerous responsibilities, they make a concerted effort to get an education and ensure a brighter future.

Lucy is the oldest child in a family with eight children. She and her family moved here from Hawaii when Lucy was a second grader. As the oldest, Lucy has been charged with many responsibilities relating to the health and well-being of her younger siblings. In addition, her mother often worked the night shift, leaving Lucy in charge. When she was a freshman, she worked very hard in the classroom to complete her assignments and to do so with the utmost attention paid to quality. When she struggled with homework, it was clear that having the time and space to do homework at home was a factor.

But still Lucy took on more responsibility. To help earn money for her own and her family's expenses, and to save for college, she began working at Carrs' Bakery when she was a sophomore. Recently, she made the hard decision to move out of her home and live with a friend in order to better save money so that college can become a reality. Once she graduates from high school, she will be the first person in her immediate family to do so.

In addition to her drive to improve her own situation, Lucy maintains a clear mission to help others. This could be because of the bullying Lucy experienced as an elementary school student.

Whatever the cause, Lucy's compassion is evident to anyone who knows her. Currently, she is a member of the Service Peer Leadership class: Students in this class teach and lead cooperative, community-building games with freshman academy classes during weekly "Connections" classes.

In addition, the Peer Leadership students have helped take on a number of Service High community projects like recycling, assisting in gathering "turkey baskets" for needy families, and producing public service announcement videos for ASD Safe and Drug Free Schools. Her commitment to the Leadership Class is apparent as she chose to participate as a class member during her entire junior year, and now again as a senior. She is also a trainer for Service's "Change of Heart" program, which works to break down social and cultural barriers, cultivate student bonds through social and emotional learning skills, and improve the school's overall learning environment. Lucy is also actively involved in the "Community Involvement" class at Service. As a member of this class, she has worked with students at neighboring Trailside Elementary School in assisting second grade students with reading skills, as well helping teachers with major projects.

Lucy's goals are similar to many students – finish school, attend college, and work to improve her community. But unlike so many others, Lucy has faced down significant obstacles in order to make this happen. With her can-do attitude, optimism and genuine care for others, she will undoubtedly continue on a path toward a brighter future.