Michael Coderre is planning for a bright future. The high school senior is a self-motivated multi-tasker partly because he wants to be, but also because of his commitment as a full-time senior at Anchorage Christian School. This self-starter also has a full time-job and a wide range of hobbies.

Michael, a mature, respectful and very serious young man, is also a loving family member with an especially great relationship with his mother, father and younger sister. But for Michael, his diligence for a bright future is equaled by the challenges in his life. His father’s struggle with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and the additional responsibilities in the household and on Michael are far-reaching. MS is a chronic, long-term disease that affects the central nervous system. It can cause blurred vision, loss of muscle control and a number of other physical problems.

But Michael never uses his dad’s health as an excuse or allows it to keep him from doing what has to be done. When his father is unable to work, Michael helps support the family with money from his job at McDonald’s where he has worked for the last year and a half.

“The situation has taught me how to face life and take responsibility earlier than I probably would have had to, but that’s okay,” said Michael. “My parents raised me and my income is just a safety net, but it is the least that I can do for them.”

Michael enjoys high school and currently holds an impressive 3.6 GPA along with working 30-40 hours a week. It’s remarkable that he still finds time to participate in a couple of his favorite hobbies, track and soccer. After high school, Michael wants to earn a journalism degree. His teachers say he is quite talented and a journalism degree is well within his reach. Michael says he really enjoys research and writing, and hopes to one day be a newspaper reporter.

To Michael and his parents, a path to college is significant since he will be the first person in the family to attend. “My mom has always encouraged me to work hard and get to college,” he said.

Michael Coderre is a believer in education and hopes to increase his community service one day and “give back to the community, so the less fortunate could gain access to further education.”

Asked for three words to describe himself, he says with a chuckle “realistic, sarcastic, and, I guess, mature.” This great kid can also be described as an inspiration.