

# Scholarship Applicant Summary

<b>Name:</b>	Daniel Blakeney	<b>Age at Graduation:</b>	18
<b>Site:</b>	Home Campus	<b>Length of Stay:</b>	7 years 5 months
<b>Post Graduation Plan:</b>	2-Year College	<b>Placement Status:</b>	None
<b>GPA:</b>	3.55	<b>ACT Score:</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Planning Meeting #1:</b>	85	<b>Planning Meeting #2:</b>	85
<b>School Name:</b>	Southeast Community College	<b>Current Employment:</b>	Boys Town
<b>SSM Model Category #:</b>	3	<b>Pell Amount \$</b>	7395
<b>Extra-Curricular:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Varsity: Football, and Track. (2023-2026)</li> <li>- Junior Varsity Track (2023)</li> <li>- Junior Varsity Football (2022)</li> <li>- Junior Varsity Wrestling (2022)</li> </ul>		
<b>Leadership Positions:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Peer Disciple (2024-2025)</li> <li>- Captain (2023-2025)</li> </ul>		
<b>Major/Field of Work or Study:</b>	Welding Technology		
<b>Post-Graduation Final Plan Details:</b>	After graduation, I plan to attend Southeast Community College to earn my Associate of Applied Science in Welding Technology, which I will enroll in in April 2026. Getting my Associate of Applied Science will bring me one step closer to the future I am aiming for. I plan to pay for my education with Financial Aid and scholarships I have applied for.		
<b>What needs to be done to finalize my plan:</b>	I will receive an email from Southeast with details on my classes and my dorm room.		
<b>Youth Identified Challenges/Barriers:</b>	The biggest barrier is I will get no help from my family back in Texas, in which I will need financial assistance, a car or transportation of some sort, and a phone and laptop to be able to contact Family members and Professors at school, and I will need the laptop to complete my assignments.		
<b>Housing Plan:</b>	College dorm		
<b>Outstanding Needs:</b>	I will need a car, phone, and a laptop to do my assignments.		

## Letter of Recommendation

<b>Student:</b>	Blakeney, Daniel (2-year college)	<b>Completed On:</b> 1/20/26
<b>Recommender:</b>	Kolley, Emily (Director)	<b>Total Score:</b> 147/155

**Application Type:**

Housing

<b>Total Score</b>	<b>147/155</b>
Academic & Career Readiness	33/35
Interpersonal & Communication Skills	10/10
Character & Leadership	35/35
Adaptability & Resilience	50/55
2-Year College	19/20

**Insightful Recommendation**

**Can you share a moment when the applicant demonstrated integrity, empathy, or leadership in a meaningful way?**

Danny has been a leader since the moment he stepped on campus. Danny is the kid that will always come and say hi, do the right thing in and out of adult eyes, and consistently demonstrates everything he has learned from Boys Town. A specific moment is recently he earned a consequence for throwing a snowball. It ended up hitting someone. He did not mean to hit anyone and immediately came in and told on himself. He apologized profusely and continued to ask what more he could do. This is a perfect example of sometimes we make impulsive decisions and what matters is how its handled. He handled it with humility and empathy.

**Has the applicant faced a significant challenge, and how did they respond or grow from that experience?**

Yes. Danny's entire life he has been faced with challenges. He came into the program still in elementary school. He left his home of Loredo Texas and came to the middle of nowhere Nebraska. Danny immediately bought into the program. When he went to high school, he went into a new home. This was hard for Danny as he had been with two of his housemates since he was 9. Danny still continued to communicate with them but made new connections and learned the ways of his new home.

**What aspects of the applicant's character or experience make them a strong fit for the Successful Futures program (Housing or Community Supports) and/or strengthen their scholarship application?**

Danny will do the right thing and lead by example. When he does have mess ups, he owns it immediately and does what he needs to do to make it right.

**Can you share a specific story or moment that highlights the applicant's strengths or the positive impact they've made, based on your personal experience with them?**

Danny came in as a 9 year old. His first week, he told me how much he loved football and wanted to be like the high schoolers. Watching Danny earn all of the football awards last year made my heart soar. He is great at football but its his character that helped him win everything. Its his character that his coaches love. Its also his passion. He made such a positive impact on that team and the people around him.

**Is there any additional insight or information you'd like to provide about this applicant that hasn't been covered yet?**

Danny would be a great candidate and probably one of the kids that deserves it the most.

## Letter of Recommendation

<b>Student:</b>	<b>Blakeney, Daniel (2-year college)</b>	<b>Completed On: 1/24/26</b>
<b>Recommender:</b>	<b>Valdez, Maria (Care Giver)</b>	<b>Total Score: N/A</b>
<b>Application Type:</b> Scholarship		
<b>Insightful Recommendation</b>		
<b>Can you share a moment when the applicant demonstrated integrity, empathy, or leadership in a meaningful way?</b>		
Danny was a small child when he was placed here at Sacred Heart Children's Home. He always had a smile on his face and was very friendly. He loved to be outdoors and enjoy basketball, bike riding, swimming, and football. Danny had good sportsmanship. He was able to accept a loss. During activities at Sacred Heart Children's Home, especially during Christmas, he was sociable and outgoing.		
<b>Has the applicant faced a significant challenge, and how did they respond or grow from that experience?</b>		
Even though, Danny has a speech impairment, this challenge did not prevent him from being happy, communicative, and social.		
<b>What aspects of the applicant's character or experience make them a strong fit for the Successful Futures program (Housing or Community Supports) and/or strengthen their scholarship application?</b>		
Danny is a strong determined young boy who has taken advantage of acquiring an education through Boys Town. At this point, he is breaking through the family cycle, and I believe he will.		
<b>Can you share a specific story or moment that highlights the applicant's strengths or the positive impact they've made, based on your personal experience with them?</b>		
Danny's friendliness and joy as a small child made any impact on the CEO of United Way who remembers him for his friendliness.		
<b>Is there any additional insight or information you'd like to provide about this applicant that hasn't been covered yet?</b>		
Being a child of a single mother, Danny has been resilient and courageous to stand for himself. He is not intimidated by life's challenges.		

## Letter of Recommendation

**Student:** Blakeney, Daniel (2-year college)

**Completed On:** 1/28/26

**Recommender:** Findeis, Ray (Trusted Adult)

**Total Score:** N/A

**Application Type:**

Scholarship

**Insightful Recommendation**

**Can you share a moment when the applicant demonstrated integrity, empathy, or leadership in a meaningful way?**

I've known Danny for many years and have seen him grow in leadership in his home. Staying away from bad influences and staying motivated in football. I can't remember the last time he went non-compliant.

**Has the applicant faced a significant challenge, and how did they respond or grow from that experience?**

He has been here for many years and has adapted to Boys Town every year. Even the change of Family Teachers once they stepped down. He continues to show growth and embodies the Boys Town model.

**What aspects of the applicant's character or experience make them a strong fit for the Successful Futures program (Housing or Community Supports) and/or strengthen their scholarship application?**

He demonstrates leader qualities and pushes his peers to be great as well. He can take feedback and implement what he's been told and learned.

**Can you share a specific story or moment that highlights the applicant's strengths or the positive impact they've made, based on your personal experience with them?**

Everyday I see or talk to him he has a big smile and genuinely cares about the people around him. He motivates on the sideline at football and shows great character at school or around campus.

**Is there any additional insight or information you'd like to provide about this applicant that hasn't been covered yet?**

He continues to grow and is one kiddo that has spent a lot of time at Boys Town. He has made me proud to have known him for his time at BT as what happens when you follow the BT program. A true Gentleman and Leader for BT model.

## Letter of Recommendation

<b>Student:</b>	Blakeney, Daniel (2-year college)	<b>Completed On:</b> 2/18/26
<b>Recommender:</b>	Nizzi, Christopher (Coach)	<b>Total Score:</b> N/A

**Application Type:**  
Scholarship

### Insightful Recommendation

**Can you share a moment when the applicant demonstrated integrity, empathy, or leadership in a meaningful way?**

Daniel has been my go-to person to welcome others to campus. His positive attitude and cheerful demeanor are great for new students who are wondering what Boys Town is about and probably a bit scared of something new. I have witnessed a few of these introductions and seen Daniel be empathetic and encouraging at the same time. Daniel shares that he understands how a person may be nervous on their first day and lets them know he has been here a long time and likes Boys Town. Certainly, his smiling presence eases others in their new environment.

**Has the applicant faced a significant challenge, and how did they respond or grow from that experience?**

One day at football practice, in the middle of a scrimmage, another player got my attention and pointed toward Daniel. I walked in front of Daniel on the field and he is just bawling, sobbing with tears. He was upset with himself because he was having a rough day and it was affecting his teammates. I assured him we had great confidence in him and encouraged him to breathe to calm down. He did so, and the rest of practice went well. I had never seen him so upset before and was impressed with his ability to fix the moment.

**What aspects of the applicant's character or experience make them a strong fit for the Successful Futures program (Housing or Community Supports) and/or strengthen their scholarship application?**

Daniel will be a joy for everyone to see every day. He is notoriously pleasant to peers and adults. He laughs easily and knows how to laugh at himself. I love how he slightly nods his head when he laughs at himself. He is a tremendously hard worker having been recognized as the most dedicated football player the past two years.

**Can you share a specific story or moment that highlights the applicant's strengths or the positive impact they've made, based on your personal experience with them?**

Daniel is a center and long snapper for the football team. At one game this year he had two spectacularly bad long snaps, one that led to a score by the other team. As soon as he was on the sideline he grabbed a football and started practicing so he could get the snaps correct. Nobody told him what to do. He just took it upon himself to get the issue fixed. I asked his position coach if we needed to talk with Daniel. The trust others have in Daniel was demonstrated when his coach said, no, he will take care of it. Daniel did. There was not an issue with the snaps the rest of the year.

**Is there any additional insight or information you'd like to provide about this applicant that hasn't been covered yet?**

## Letter of Recommendation

<b>Student:</b>	Blakeney, Daniel (2-year college)	Completed On: 2/8/26
<b>Recommender:</b>	Williams, Precious (Former Family Teacher)	Total Score: 145/150

**Application Type:**  
Housing

<b>Total Score</b>	<b>145/150</b>
Academic & Career Readiness	33/35
Interpersonal & Communication Skills	10/10
Character & Leadership	35/35
Adaptability & Resilience	47/50
2-Year College	20/20

**Insightful Recommendation**

**Can you share a moment when the applicant demonstrated integrity, empathy, or leadership in a meaningful way?**

Daniel came from an environment with limited resources, yet from an early age he demonstrated an uncommon sense of responsibility, particularly regarding finances and personal accountability. Through his commitment to the structure and opportunities provided by Boys Town, Daniel has developed into a responsible, thoughtful young adult who consistently makes intentional and well-considered decisions. If I were to describe Daniel in one word, it would be purposeful. He approaches his choices with care and reflection, and even in moments of impulsivity, he has shown the maturity to self-evaluate, correct his actions, and take full responsibility by making restitution or amends.

**Has the applicant faced a significant challenge, and how did they respond or grow from that experience?**

Like many youth who enter the program at a young age, Daniel grew up within a highly structured environment and had limited exposure to life outside of it. His family connections have been limited, with visits generally occurring only during the Christmas season. Although Daniel has always made efforts to return home for winter break, safety concerns in his mother's neighborhood have at times required him to remain indoors. Through these experiences, Daniel gained the insight to recognize that returning home full-time would limit his ability to succeed. Despite pressure from his mother to come home and work to support the family, Daniel made the difficult but forward-thinking decision to remain on campus and continue investing in his education and personal growth.

**What aspects of the applicant's character or experience make them a strong fit for the Successful Futures program (Housing or Community Supports) and/or strengthen their scholarship application?**

During his senior year, Daniel has fully committed himself to academic success and participation in activities. One of the most meaningful changes I have observed is his growing appreciation for the role Boys Town has played in shaping him and his ability to use that support as a foundation for his future. Though Daniel is naturally quiet, he possesses a steady determination and inner strength that suggest he will contribute positively to his community in ways that may not always be visible, but will be deeply impactful. Daniel values the traditions and structure that have helped him succeed, while also recognizing his desire to build a better future for himself.

**Can you share a specific story or moment that highlights the applicant's strengths or the positive impact they've made, based on your personal experience with them?**

As he prepares for life beyond Boys Town, Daniel has shown remarkable self-awareness by voluntarily seeking therapy to address concerns about this transition. This proactive approach reflects both maturity and a genuine commitment to personal growth—qualities essential for long-term success.

**Is there any additional insight or information you'd like to provide about this applicant that hasn't been covered yet?**

I strongly encourage you to consider Daniel for a scholarship. He does not pursue recognition for its own sake, nor does he hold unrealistic ambitions. Instead, Daniel seeks the opportunity to give back in a meaningful and productive way. A scholarship would not only ease his financial burden but would serve as a powerful investment in a young man who has already demonstrated perseverance, responsibility, and purpose. I am confident that Daniel will honor this opportunity and use it to create positive change in his own life and in the lives of others.

My name is Daniel Blakeney. I'm originally from Laredo, Texas, I have lived in Boys Town for seven years. Being at Boys Town has made a major impact on my life. I am involved in varsity football and varsity track, both of which have taught me to work hard, stay committed, and push through challenges on and off the field. After graduation, I plan to attend Southeast Community College to earn my Associate of Applied Science in Welding Technology, which I will enroll in in April 2026. Getting my Associate of Applied Science will bring me one step closer to the future I am aiming for.

Living in Boys Town has taught me many valuable lessons, but the most significant has been that success doesn't just happen; you must earn it through effort and dedication. I came here at a young age, not knowing what I wanted for myself, but over the years, I realized that if I wanted to be successful and reach my goals, I would need to put time and effort into the program. Giving time and effort wouldn't just mean going through the motions and getting it over with; it meant participating and staying committed to Boys Town even when things got hard. I would have to learn to listen and communicate with my Family Teachers and teachers at school when I needed help. The structure of Boys Town gave me the space to grow, and the expectations taught me responsibility. Along the way, I discovered that discipline and consistency are important. Through all the ups and downs, I've stuck with it, and now I see a future I'm proud to work toward. Everything I've learned here will stay with me long after I graduate. Boys Town helped me figure out what matters, learn how to trust people, and step up when it counts.

There have been many people who have helped me understand what it takes to be successful, but the ones who have helped me the most are Ray & Precious Williams, Coach Benda, and my mother. They have all been a big part of shaping me and helping me become who I am today. Ray & Precious Williams have been a big part of my life because they taught me skills I didn't know growing up. So, when I arrived in Boys Town and they were my first house, things started changing for me the moment I started living with them. They were like my parents while I was in their home. Throughout the seven years, Precious has taught me many life skills that I will take with me for the rest of my life. One of them being, how to be responsible, and how to step up for myself. She also taught me to find myself and who I truly am. Ray has taught me many life skills, including confidence and independence. Both those skills have brought me a long way in my life, because growing up at home I didn't have much confidence and when it came to school or activities, I would rather stay in the background than be involved in the moment, make memories, and have fun. They have both been a big part of helping me become who I am, I am very grateful for them. Coach Benda has been a big part of helping me understand by teaching me how to have a good work-ethic and how to have good self-motivation. He has taught me that success doesn't just show up in your life; you must earn it somehow and put effort into it so

that you can achieve your goals. The most important supporter in my understanding of being successful has been my mother. She has been with me through the best and the worst days of my life. She has always told me to keep my head up and smile. She is my role model in life; she has taught me everything I know about the world and everything I need to do to be successful. The biggest thing she has taught me is that I need to have faith and trust in God, and that everything will fall into place when it needs to – it's just a matter of time. I am so grateful for being able to spend my experience with these people at Boys Town; they have done so much for me and have taught me so much.

There are a few obstacles I suspect I will come across in the future, for which I am well prepared for thanks to Boys Town. The first obstacle I might have in college are having rules in my dorm or in class, which I will follow like I have been taught to in Boys Town. I will follow them to keep my classmates and me safe while working with fire and flammable gas. Another obstacle I will face is leaving my family behind in Texas. I will need to learn to build new, strong relationships with other people, like my friends or new people who come into my life. The last obstacle I will face is that I will have a lot of time and freedom to do things I like, which I will need to learn to make a schedule of things I need and want to do, and with that I will need to prioritize the needs before the wants.

These are some steps I have taken to prepare myself for life after Boys Town. What I have done to prepare myself responsibly are, I have asked my Family Teachers if I can start cooking for myself to get in the habit of taking care of myself and being responsible. I have also asked for a budget planner to keep track of things I get with the money I have earned from working, so that I can learn to budget my money and not spend it on unnecessary things. What I have done to prepare myself academically for college is I have learned the skill of prioritizing, which will help me get my needs done and make sure they get done on time and with quality of work. Boys Town has taught me to make sure my academics are good before doing anything else, like hobbies or activities of any sort. Success means a lot to me. I want to be the first in my family to be financially and economically stable. I will do whatever it takes to get there, and I am looking forward to having Boys Town's support in guiding me to be successful and reach my dream of becoming a successful man. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to apply for Boys Town Scholarships, and I am grateful for having Boys Town by my side all these years, Thank you.

AI was used for editing, grammar, and structure assistance.