



## The Aspiring Doctor

LARRY KLOMPS  
College Student,  
MHS Class of 2008

Larry Klomps learned firsthand what life is like for someone living with a disability and the hardships that it causes. When Larry was two years old, his mother became disabled as a result of an alcohol-related domestic dispute. She was left with severe spinal injuries and to this day is in constant pain. Is it any wonder then that Larry has chosen medicine as his future? "Helping other people gives me great satisfaction. I am always looking for ways I can help another person."

Larry has only just finished his freshman year at Pennsylvania State University but he already knows that he wants to become a pediatric surgeon and to volunteer for Doctors Without Borders, to provide healthcare to people with disabilities and little access to medical care.

Larry's mother was profoundly disabled from her injuries and as such, found it almost impossible to care for her two active sons. Her love for them forced her to make the painful decision to send Larry and his brother to live with their grandparents. However, Larry's grandfather did not have the financial resources to take care of the boys. When Larry was 15, it was determined that he and his brother be sent to a boarding school...and during that research, the family discovered MHS.

Awestruck by the opportunities that existed at the school, Larry quickly adjusted and thrived. Building on the solid foundation

instilled by his mother, MHS helped him discover his passion for helping others.

Larry enjoyed science and always wanted to be a doctor. It was a chance encounter during a MHS community service program, Onward Spartans, that solidified his choice of career. Through this program, Larry met Dr. Tom Davis.

"Dr. Davis talked to me about being a plastic surgeon, and how he volunteers his time and skills to people in developing countries. He described the smiles on the kids' faces and the feeling of reward that results from his efforts. I knew I wanted to do something like that too."

Dr. Davis continues to give Larry advice and guidance on becoming a doctor. "I would have never met Dr. Davis if it wasn't for the school. I am so thankful for the way fate played out. I know I am on the right track."

Larry's service to the community has already been recognized by MHS. In September 2007, he received the Visionary Award for embodying the four sacred values instilled by Milton Hershey. These include commitment to mission, positive spirit, integrity and mutual respect. He also received the Milton and Catherine Hershey Citizenship Award for character and community service upon his graduation in 2008.

With so much of his life still ahead of him, it is easy to imagine how many lives will change due to this young man's commitment to helping others.