



Coming into life as a one pound, three ounce preemie, and having extensive hospital visits until the age of ten helped give Matthew his focus on life. He says, "I came into the world fighting for my life and I will do everything I can to achieve my life goal of assisting, supporting and helping others." He lived that out in many service activities that he participated in during high school including Key Club, visiting nursing homes, and walking for Lupus, Alzheimers, and UNICEF. Since enrolling at Ivy Tech he has volunteered at Lafayette Adult Resource Academy and the YWCA of Greater Lafayette. He also has tutored students on campus. His long term goal is to return to his hometown of Gary and open a not-for-profit organization to help underprivileged youth and adults. He also would like to open a photo studio. He currently has a photography business and is available to cover weddings and other special occasions.

Matthew enrolled at Ivy Tech in 2014 and is majoring in business and accounting with plans to graduate next year. In addition to taking classes, he works as a library assistant at the Tippecanoe County Public Library. At the library he helps patrons with resumes, computer management skills and has learned how handle a large capacity of patrons. His supervisor says, "I have been most impressed by his progress on the job here and his development into one of our most reliable and trustworthy department staff members. He is highly organized and reliable, popular and supportive with clientele and assists in every possible way." In addition to that job he also is employed as a para-professional for Lafayette School Corporation working with special needs children at GLASS (Greater Lafayette Special Services).

One of his professors praises Matthew's leadership skills. He says, "Matthew Santana is a leader. As the semester continued it became apparent that other students in the class looked to him for guidance and support. As least one student, and maybe more, succeeded largely because Mr. Santana encouraged and helped them in ways that only other students can help. As an employee he will shine. It is likely that he will exceed all expectations while lifting his coworkers."

Both of these endorsements verify that Matthew lives out what he claims to believe. He says, "For as long as I can remember, I've known what I wanted to do with my life. I know helping people has always meant so much to me."

The Rotary scholarship will help Matthew complete his degree on time and with great success.