

**MIAMI LAKES FUTURE LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP**  
**Presented by the Town's Education Advisory Board and The Graham Companies**  
*Cover Sheet & Application Checklist*

Kaylee Mendoza  
NAME

7/18/02  
DATE OF BIRTH

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HOME ADDRESS

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(305) 725-8973  
CELL PHONE

Archbishop McCarthy High School  
HIGH SCHOOL

Cornell University / University of Miami  
COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR COMMUNITY SERVICE EXPERIENCE, EXTRACURRICULAR AND/OR LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES:

Resume Attached

**ESSAY REQUIREMENT**

Please attach typed essay (750 words maximum) to this application. Explain in your own words, how you aspire to make the world a better place. The student must demonstrate academic achievement and community service commitment and identify future goals.

**RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT**

Students **MUST** be residents of the Town of Miami Lakes to qualify for the scholarship. Non-residency is an automatic disqualification.

**RECOMMENDATION REQUIREMENT**

Please attach three letters of recommendation to this application from non-relatives. At least one letter must be from a school official (i.e. teacher, coach, counselor, school administrator, etc.).

**TRANSCRIPT REQUIREMENT**

Please attach an official sealed high school transcript to this application. Please request your Social Security number be blacked out.

Kaylee Mendoza  
APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE

3/19/20  
DATE

Amia Mendoza  
PARENT'S SIGNATURE

3/19/20  
DATE

# KAYLEE MENDOZA

## ABOUT ME

I wish to expand my knowledge regarding the sciences and the world around me while becoming a productive member of my university's society.

## EDUCATION

2016 - Present • Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy High School  
2017 - 2019 • St. Thomas University  
Dual Enrollment Courses

## AWARDS

### 2016    **Excelsior Scholar**

9, 10, 11, 12

- Received straight A's all throughout my middle school career and scored in the top 10% of all students who took the HSPT in 2015
- Began taking AP courses freshman year
- Earned a GPA of 5.20, placed in the top 6% of my class, and have taken 12 AP courses

### 2017    **Achievement in Italian II**

10

- Obtained the highest grade average in Italian II

### 2019    **Hispanic National Merit Recognition**

11

- Obtained a 1380 score on the 2018 PSAT
- Enrolled in predominantly honors and AP classes during my first three years of high school and performed well in them to achieve a GPA of 5.20

### 2019    **Proclamation of Miami Lakes Cars for a Cure Day**

11

- The town of Miami Lakes recognized my family and I for the hard work and dedication we put into raising awareness of cancer research

### 2019    **AP Scholar with Distinction**

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- Received an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams
- Completed 6 AP courses with 4's and 5's on all but one exam
- Achieved a 5.20 GPA at the end of my junior year

### 2019    **Silver Knight General Scholarship Nominee**

12

- Have a record of service to their school and community with "an unselfish and continuous use of one's talents in helping others"
- Demonstrate excellence through accelerated studies
- Top 6% of my class
- Scored a 35 out of 36 on the ACT
- Assist in conducting a nonprofit organization, Miami Lakes Cars for a Cure, that helps raise money for University of Miami's Sylvester Cancer Center and have donated about \$115,000.

## LEADERSHIP ROLES

### **Volunteer Director**

Miami Lakes Cars for a Cure

2014 - Present

- Tasked with gathering volunteers, giving each volunteer a role, and ensuring that the event runs smoothly

### **President**

Fight Cancer Club

2018 - Present

- Help create events that would bring awareness to cancer research in my school and run fundraisers.

### **Eucharistic Minister**

Liturgy Club

2019 - Present

- In Catholicism, being a eucharistic minister is a high honor
- Entails distributing the eucharist in my school's monthly masses.

## VOLUNTEER SERVICE

### **Miami Lakes Cars for a Cure**

2014 - Present

- A nonprofit organization that my family started to help raise money for research at the University of Miami's Sylvester Cancer Center. We carry out this annual event in memory of my late grandfather. Over \$115,000 have been raised since our start.

### **Math Tutor**

Mu Alpha Theta

2017 - Present

- Tutor students in lower grades in algebra, geometry, and precalculus for an hour almost every Wednesday afternoon

### **Science Tutor**

Science National Honor Society

2017 - Present

- Tutor students in biology, chemistry, and environmental science Tuesdays or Thursdays almost every week

### **Peer Tutor**

National Honor Society

2018 - Present

- Tutor struggling students in any course Tuesdays after school

### **His House Donations**

Our House Club

2018 - Present

- His House is a children's home in South Florida that takes in abandoned or orphaned children
- Collect clothing, school supplies, and toys throughout the year to donate to the children

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

### **Shadowing Dr. Gerardo Perez**

Summer 2019

- Dr. Gerardo Perez is a general medicine physician who owns a practice in my community. During summer 2019, I shadowed Dr. Perez to get exposure on running an office and to learn how to interact with patients.

### **Paws for a Cause**

2016 - Present

- Dedicated to raising money and collecting supplies to help animals in shelters
- I have been involved in animal walks, supply drives, and foster programs.
- In, 2017, I fostered a shelter cat for a few weeks as it awaited adoption.

### **Previously Mentioned Clubs and Honor Societies:**

Fight Cancer Club

- 2016 - Present

Mu Alpha Theta

- 2017 - Present

Science National Honor Society

- 2017 - Present

National Honor Society

- 2018 - Present

Liturgy Club

- 2019 - Present

"We would like to thank the Alonso family for their contributions!" I looked into the camera and smiled as the lights flashed before my eyes. I help run Miami Lakes Cars for a Cure, an annual car show that honors my late grandfather and raises money for the research hospital that treated him, and my family was receiving recognition for the \$30,000 that was raised this past year. I looked around and realized that even though I was standing in a hospital, all I saw were men and women in business attire. There were no patients around, no doctors, no apprehensive family members. One of the men in suits led us to an empty wall and announced: "Once a total of \$100,000 is raised, we will place a plaque with your organization name right here on this wall." I didn't care about the recognition. I didn't care about getting some plaque on a wall. I wanted to be involved in the real change. I wanted to hear that money we raised was used to pay a patient's medical bill. I wanted to read that a new clinical trial began because of what I had done.

Throughout my life, I never understood why people wanted to receive awards on stages or have their pictures put in newspapers alongside articles that listed their achievements. I always believed that the greatest accomplishments are attained when your motivation comes from within, not when it comes from someone else. I performed well on tests and in school because I knew that reflected my own intellectual advancement, not because I was expecting praise from my parents and teachers. I wanted to learn and better myself so in the future I could use my knowledge to help others.

After countless adults in my life asked how I was going to achieve my goal, I realized that something about medicine intrigued me from a young age. Maybe it stemmed from seeing my mom inject insulin to treat her Type 1 diabetes or from hearing my family discuss treatments that could cure my grandfather's cancer or even from watching veterinarians on Animal Planet. What caught my attention was never their white coats or shiny stethoscopes, but how doctors took the time to assess someone's condition thoroughly in order to provide proper treatment and how they became elated at the news that their patients' medication was working. I related their altruism to how I try to lead my life. When a friend in need comes to me, I imagine I am a doctor listening to them ramble on about the "diseases" of their lives and I find a way to "diagnose" their problems, oftentimes providing them with a proper "treatment plan."

Through my experience of leading my school's cancer awareness club and organizing volunteers to work my family's nonprofit event, I have devoted hours to researching efficient fundraising techniques to maximize the impact of our charity on the community. When I become discouraged, I think back to



all the people who come to me at these events or direct message me to thank my family and I for the effort we put into collecting \$80,000 the past five years. My actions have created a new lease on life for many people and that thought alone encourages me to continue working.

"I wanna say I lived each day until I died, and know that I meant something in somebody's life." My goal in life is to utilize my studies and create a life where I make each day have a purpose, especially to those I encounter. When encountering obstacles, I will find a way around them by reminding myself that what I pursue in life is not for the benefit of myself, but to inspire change in the lives of others. My life purpose is to be the reason someone lives a lifetime.

I plan to pursue a career in the medical field as a physician specializing in either neurology or oncology. I am aware that if I aim to give others a tomorrow, I must do my best to ensure that there is a tomorrow. Therefore, later on in life, I aspire to retire to research sustainable alternatives to wasteful practices conducted in everyday medical procedures.

January 24, 2020

Kaylee Mendoza  
16503 NW 83 Place  
Miami Lakes, Florida 33016

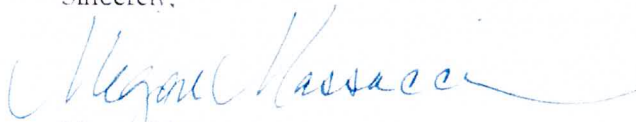
To Whom It May Concern:

We are honored and greatly appreciative that Kaylee Mendoza, with the Miami Lakes Cars for a Cure Foundation, has chosen to invest in the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. Over the past five years, they have donated over \$75,000 to allow us to continue advancing in the latest in groundbreaking cancer research.

This past year, Sylvester celebrated our prestigious National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation, and we are so grateful for the commitment and steadfast belief in our institution from organizations such as Miami Lakes Cars for a Cure. The NCI designation recognizes Sylvester among the top 3% of cancer centers in the United States, and one of only two NCI-designated cancer centers in the state of Florida, this would not be possible without the support of our partners.

Cancer impacts us all, and with partners such as Kaylee and her family, we are committed to fighting this disease at every turn with innovative cancer research, groundbreaking clinical trials, and excellent patient experiences at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. The Miami Lakes Cars for a Cure Foundation's continued generosity demonstrates the support of our mission and we are hopeful for a cure with Kaylee and her family on our team.

Sincerely,



Megan Massacci  
Philanthropy Officer



# ARCHBISHOP EDWARD A. MCCARTHY HIGH SCHOOL

Miami Lakes Education Advisory Board,

It is with great pride that I write this letter, recommending Kaylee Mendoza for the Miami Lakes Future Leadership Scholarship. I have had the pleasure of being her college advisor over the past year and have witnessed her grow as a student and person. In the time I have known Kaylee I have found her to be extremely intelligent, a dedicated student, and a humble but confident leader. She is truly a fascinating and respectful person who is highly regarded by both teachers and students alike.

Kaylee is an outstanding student who excels at Archbishop McCarthy High School. She has a 5.23 GPA while taking a most rigorous course load of AP and honor level courses. However, her achievements are not limited to the classroom. Kaylee has a deep commitment to service as demonstrated through her involvement. At McCarthy she serves as the President of our Fight Cancer Club. Through this role she brings awareness to her peers about individuals who battle daily with their fight for life. She is dedicated to creating events that will allow students to raise money to donate to cancer organizations.

In her junior year alongside a group of friends, she founded the Our House Club at McCarthy. This club works very closely with the organization His House in Miami which provides foster care and schooling for children. Kaylee and her peers visit the children at His House frequently and raise money to provide them with school supplies, clothing, and toys. Kaylee is also a member of numerous honor societies within our high school. These societies not only recognize her academic achievements but allow her to tutor her peers who may struggle in these academic areas. Kaylee's passion for serving others and sharing her gifts is admirable.

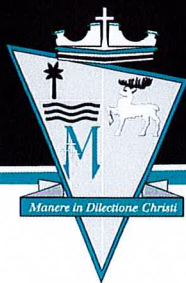
Kaylee is one of the highest achieving and self-motivated students I have ever worked with. She strives for only success and motivates her peers to do the same. I know that these characteristics will serve her well in college as she continues to pursue academic, leadership, and service with great commitment. It is with utmost enthusiasm that I recommend Kaylee Mendoza for the Miami Lakes Future Leadership Scholarship.

Respectfully,  
Ms. Lindsay D'Abrosca  
College Advisor  
College Advising Department  
[ldabrosca@mccarthyhigh.org](mailto:ldabrosca@mccarthyhigh.org)



 Distinguished School





# ARCHBISHOP EDWARD A. MCCARTHY HIGH SCHOOL

March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Admissions/Scholarship Committee,

I have come to realize that being a teacher is such a dynamic profession. For instance, you are able to gain insight on the changes in behavior, social interaction, and learning skills from students' generation after generation. You become integrated with new ideas in the classroom, modify your curriculum to best fit student needs, and learn new "student lingo" everyday (some fortunate and some not). You do this in order to best prepare them for that scary, yet also extraordinary place called "COLLEGE!"

We are also blessed and privileged to teach and observe some of the best young adults that have the ability to revolutionize and make positive changes in our society. These individuals are those that are natural leaders who actually put in work to bring the best out of themselves and others around them. I was able to meet one of these trailblazers this year, Kaylee Mendoza.

I have the pleasure of teaching Kaylee in my AP Chemistry course this year as a senior. With her unassuming nature and inquisitive mind, Kaylee is one of those students whose work ethic sets the precedent for other to reach. Her intelligence is unquestionable (5.23 GPA, 35 ACT), but I look at how student's communicate in my class to see their true potential. Kaylee asks questions as to the WHY and HOW of science phenomena and not just the WHAT? Her intuitiveness is recognized just as much as the all so important dependent variable, the report card grade. I could see the awe on her face when she has an epiphany on a new topic or the focused nature in her demeanor when leading a lab team to develop a non-toxic, affordable, and effective hand-warmer by testing out different ionic salts using the topic of Calorimetry.

Outside of the classroom, Kaylee represents and embodies the true essence of what being a Maverick at Archbishop McCarthy High School entails. That means getting involved! Kaylee showcases herself as versatile and well-rounded with the organizations she joins. For example, you can see her at any school mass serving as a Eucharistic Minister, a role granted for those that are ambassadors of our campus ministry program. She also can be found throughout the week tutoring students throughout the week in math as a member of the Mu Alpha Theta Society. Kaylee is also a nominee for one of our highly regarded state scholarships called the Silver Knight Scholarship. This scholarship combines Kaylee's volunteership with her academic accolades inside the classroom.

It is hard to quantify the level of commitment that she makes on this school without a trace of ego. She is a student that reminds me as to why I am a teacher. Like I said, teaching is a dynamic profession, where you get to see those that will change the world. Kaylee is a student that will make an impact on a college campus and not just stand by waiting for things to come to her. She will create new organizations with the desire to push people to their highest ceilings.

Sincerely,

Mr. Christopher Caprio, AP Chemistry Instructor



Distinguished School





Accredited by Cognia

Miami Lakes, FL 33016

Gender: F • ID: 12359

UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT

## 25.00

Philosophy	English	Science	Mathematics	Physical Ed	Practical Arts	World Lang	Social Studies	Fine Arts	Electives	Total Credits
3.5	3.5	5.5	4.5	1	1.5	2	3.5	0	0	25