



# JULIEN FISH

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER INTERVIEW

*Class of 2019 | Casa Roble High School*

*2018 Good Tidings Community Service Scholarship Winner*

***Volunteer Work:** Church youth group leader and summer camp special needs volunteer.*

***2020 College:** William Jesup University.*

**GT: You've had a particularly difficult upbringing as a child, can you share with us your experience?**

Julien: Without a permanent family growing up, I moved from couch to couch my entire life. My mother was incarcerated, my grandmother passed away from cancer, and my grandfather was an alcoholic who ended up killing himself. At 13, I witnessed my father getting shot.

I've been around drug addiction and violence my entire life, and it was a struggle to break out of that cycle. One day, I visited my cousin with his foster parents, and without asking they welcomed me in, and it's been the biggest blessing.

**GT: You've experienced many unfortunate events, how do you stay so positive?**

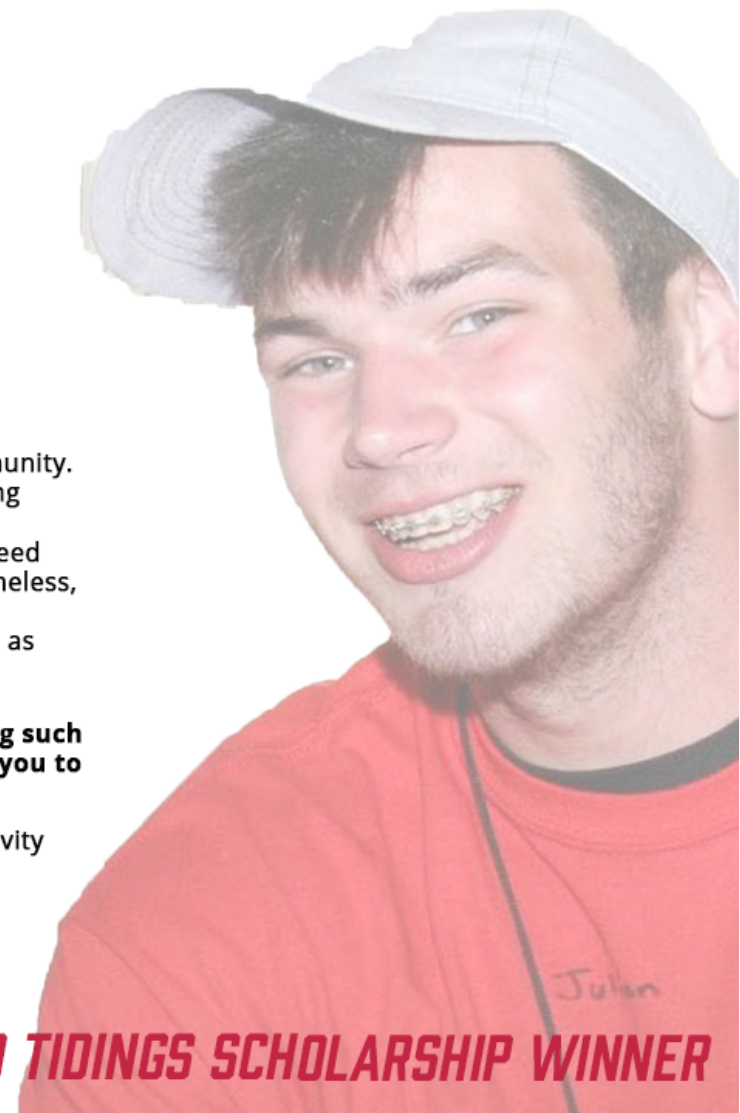
Julien: I feel so blessed. I don't think there will be a day in my life when I can make up for what people have done for me. So, it's important for me to give back as many ways as I can.

**GT: How did you get involved with volunteering?**

Julien: My church and Christ play a huge role in my life, so I spend as much time as I can with them to give back to the community. Every summer, I look forward to volunteering for our church's special needs camp. On the weekends, I volunteer at church to feed the homeless, provide childcare for the homeless, and lead Sunday school for the little kids. I volunteer at the hospital's ICU every week, as I want to pursue a career in nursing.

**GT: Some will feel uncomfortable sharing such personal details, why is it important for you to share your story?**

Julien: If my story can encourage and positivity impact anyone in some way, then it's worth it.



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**GT: As an independent, what has been your biggest financial challenges?**

Julien: I couldn't even focus on school. I was trying to survive from day to day. I'm honestly not even sure how I made it.

**GT: How will the GT scholarship help you the most?**

Julien: When I first started high school, I thought I would be dead before I graduate. I was in the wrong type of crowd and never had anyone believe in me. But, when you guys gave me that call and said that you believed in me and are offering me a scholarship, it gave me hope in completing my dream.

**GT: And, what's your dream?**

Julien: My dream has always been to break out of my family's negative cycle of drug addiction, and be a light and example for others like me. I want them to know that there's hope and it is possible. I have a long way to go in achieving my dreams, but Good Tidings has helped me get started.

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**GT: How was your senior year?**

Julien: School's super cool. I graduated with straight A's, and I was the first in my class to finish my senior project shadowing a physician.

**GT: Why William Jesup University for college?**

Julien: I'm attending there, because of their Biology Concentration Allied Health Nursing program, and it's a Christian school close to home. I'm also interested in the volunteering opportunities they offer to their students.