

**THE MICHAEL C. ROTHBERG SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

**A PERSONAL ESSAY**

**BY HALEY COHEN**

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**REQUIRED ESSAY (approximately 250 words):**

Describe your personal goals, challenges or commitments and how you will draw on what you've learned about Michael Rothberg's legacy to inspire your own.

It is clear that Michael Rothberg's too-short life was committed to making a difference in the lives of others – his family and friends, his company and co-workers, and the community in which he lived. With his impressive career success and all the generous, kind and thoughtful contributions he made to the world around him, what strikes me the most is that he seems to have found happiness and balance in his life; both things that most people strive for and never truly achieve.

From a very young age, I have been involved in community service activities with my family and through my synagogue. I have been taught that performing acts of human kindness and sharing with others less fortunate than me not only helps them, but adds purpose and meaning to my life, too. With often challenging financial circumstances at home, my Mom always managed to donate to others, even while borrowing to make ends meet; she continued to make time for community service, even while working 60+ hours a week at her job and raising children as a single parent. Since my early teens, I have tried hard to balance school, extra-curricular activities, part-time work, community service and family time and I already know what a challenge this can be. Being successful in doing so has brought me pride and happiness in my life so far.

I know this will become more difficult as I move on to college and my own career, but I am committed to keep trying – it is too important not to. In addition to my Mom and my Rabbi, I will now add Michael Rothberg to the people who have set the high bar of achievement and who serve as role models to influence me in the years ahead.

*Haley Cohen*