

Dear Fellow Alumni:

My name is Ekenna Anya-Gafu and I am extremely proud to say that I am graduate of Christian Brothers High School, Class of 2010.

Five years ago, I received a letter telling me that I had been accepted to CB and I knew my I was being offered a chance for a better life. On the first day of school, I was nervous. Coming from public school, not one of my peers had chosen Christian Brothers as their school of choice. Even with all my fears and doubts, I came the first day ready to work.

If you had met me then, because of the choices I was making at the time, you might have thought, "this kid has a lot of potential, but will probably have a life of failure." If I had not attended CB, I would probably be a criminal. A lot of the friends that I used to hang out with back then are in jail.

The biggest change in me that I attribute to CB is that even without a father, I have become a man. And in reality, I didn't have one father -- I had many. From the teachers to the coaching staff and the wonderful families that basically adopted me, I am grateful for every day of the four years I spent at CB. I owe a lot to the generous people who have made this all possible.

I lived at home with my mother and sister. Even though my mom works very hard, there is no possible way that we could have afforded CB tuition. But through the generosity of donors like you, I received tuition assistance that made it possible to attend CB. I tried hard to make sure that I took advantage of all the opportunities available at CB. I played football, basketball, rugby, and ran track & field. I was the President of the Black Student Union and volunteered more than 350 hours of community service. I participated in a Kairos retreat through Campus Ministry.

Thanks to hard work in the classroom and on the field, I have earned a full scholarship to the University of North Dakota, where I am participating in the Aviation Program, playing football, and majoring in commercial aviation. I am already learning to fly.

I can never thank CB and its donors enough for all the opportunities given to me. When I am successful in my own career, I will give back and help a student like me have a CB education.

You should know that when you make a gift to CB, you are giving a kid like me a chance. And when kids like me are given a chance, we'll make the most of it. I hope you'll do that today.

Love and gratitude,

Ekenna Anya-Gafu Ekenna Anya-Gafu '10