



*Here I am in 1996!*

Do you believe in miracles? I do. My name is Amber and I am a member of Christian Brothers High School Class of 1996.

I'd like to share my story with you, and explain why I believe that you and I create miracles for students each time we support tuition assistance.

I grew up in a single-parent household without much oversight, and without many good influences. I was as rough as my circumstances demanded. After I began public high school, and headed quickly down a bad path, my mom decided to switch me to CB. I found myself there for second semester of freshman year in January 1993. I had entered to learn.

It was then that the little miracles started. The first miracle had been getting accepted into CB. The second was that even though it was far, *far* out of reach financially for my mom, the school offered us tuition assistance.

More miracles followed.

Some appeared in the form of teachers. Teachers who taught more than academics and modeled a different way of being. Teachers like Mr. English who expected students to be responsible, and whose wit kept us actively engaged and inspired. Through teachers like him, I learned to be organized, rise to challenges and gain confidence in myself and my abilities.



*Mr. English*

Miracles came through those I met in cheerleading and yearbook. On one hand they taught me choreography, how to lay out pages and sell ad space. On the other, I learned teamwork and communication. Have you ever seen a cheerleading pyramid? Or had the fun of flipping through your yearbook? Both require trust, diligence and coordination, with each safely performed stunt and each year's hardbound memories the results of planning, action and perseverance. Each achievement was a miracle of persistence.

My journey wasn't always smooth. There were a few bumps along the road, some resulting with me in Mr. Witry's detention hall. But by sophomore year, I'd figured it out (wisdom – another miracle).

CB provided stability and structure. Within its framework I could envision and prepare for a different future than the one I'd seen in front of me before. It was a future that included my attending UOP, heading on to a master's at



*Mr. Witry*



Golden Gate University and from there a rewarding career in Human Resources. A fulfilled life and meaningful career, more everyday miracles.

But the greatest miracle I experienced at CB, I didn't recognize for many years. I'd received a letter (much like this) signed by my classmate Jake Hunley, now a teacher and coach at CB. In it, he reminded us of what is taught to students at our school: **"Leave to Serve."** It was such a simple, straightforward reminder of what had been instilled in me during my years as a student. I had entered to learn. And, now, I had an opportunity to serve.

**I realized the miracle of generosity, of compassionate philanthropy, that had graced my life had been come through alumni like you, and like me.** People offered me - someone they didn't even know - the chance of a lifetime. Their generosity changed my life, broadened my horizons and has blessed me and my family ever since.

Tuition assistance made it all possible. And, it was people who contributed to CB that made it all happen for me. I'm not sure that they ever realized the impact their donations made, but I write today to tell you **it made THE difference.**

These days, this year, especially this Christmas season, we might all be looking for miracles around us. We can BE the miracle for someone else. When you donate, you create opportunity, hope and connection for students at Christian Brothers High School. **Your generosity literally changes lives. It changed mine.** And when I look at my family each day, when I look at the people I work with, and the community I live in, I experience the miracle that my CB education brought to my life.

We each have the opportunity of changing lives for students today. I've made my contribution. I hope you join me. What miracles will come out of our gifts?

Live, Jesus, In Our Hearts. Forever.  
Have a Merry and Peaceful Christmas,

*Amber*

Amber Ramos '96



*Here I am today!*

**Help create miracles for students. Make a gift today.**

CB leads the region in providing tuition assistance, keeping this Catholic, Lasallian education within reach for more families.

450 students, that's 39 % of our student body, receive tuition assistance. 7% of our students are from families living below federal poverty level.

Donate at [www.cbhs-sacramento.org/support](http://www.cbhs-sacramento.org/support) or by mailing your contribution in the enclosed envelope.

*"Miracles happen by touching hearts"*  
St. John Baptist de La Salle

