

City of South Daytona

Office of the City Manager

1672 S. Ridgewood Avenue • South Daytona, FL 32119 • (386) 322-3014



MEMORANDUM

To: The Chairman and Directors of the South Daytona Community Trust
From: James L. Gillis Jr., President of the South Daytona Community Trust
Re: Consideration of Awarding the Annual South Daytona Community Trust Scholarship to Enrico Joseph Sita III in the Amount of \$1,500 for Fiscal Year 2022
Date: May 2, 2022

An annual academic scholarship was created by the Chairman and Board of Directors of the South Daytona Community Trust on March 10, 2020. The purpose of the scholarship was to recognize a high school senior from South Daytona who bettered their community through volunteerism while maintaining a 3.0 GPA in their schoolwork. One scholarship is to be awarded each year in the amount of \$1,500 paid to the successful applicant's college, university or trade-school.

This year, the City received two applications for the South Daytona Community Trust 2022 scholarship; however, only one application was complete. The complete application was submitted by Enrico Joseph Sita III, a senior at Atlantic High School.

Mr. Sita has a weighted Grade Point Average (GPA) of 4.5185 and ranks first in his class. He was born and raised in South Daytona and has completed over 200 community service hours in the past few years.

Mr. Sita defines the very character of the program in that he has excelled in school while volunteering to help his community. A copy of his volunteerism essay has been attached for your review. It was a delight to read the accomplishments that this student was able to achieve at such a young age. The recommendations from his teachers and residents of this community were stellar.

Due to the outstanding nature of the application and stellar quality of the applicant, staff is recommending that the South Daytona Community Trust Scholarship for fiscal year 2022 be awarded to Enrico Joseph Sita III. If awarded, a scholarship amount of \$1,500 will be deposited directly into his account at Daytona State College where he eventually plans to transfer to the University of Central Florida to pursue a Masters Degree in Business and Film Production.

Enrico Sita

917 Pineapple Rd, South Daytona, FL, 32119

Atlantic High School – (386) 322-5600

Personal Cell: (386) 281-9429

How Does Volunteerism Benefit My Community?

At an early age, my parents instilled in me a sense of pride for our community. We always did lots of things within our neighborhood. I was the only young child on my street for years, and most of the neighbors were like grandparents or aunts and uncles to me. I would take up the garbage cans for my neighbors directly across from me, Mr. and Mrs. Rogers, and bring the mail in for my next-door neighbor, Mr. Larry. I would even watch my neighbors' pets whenever they were out of town.

We as a family would always band together to make sure storm preparations are met for all who need it for severe weather like hurricanes. My dad and I were always the first to show up to fill sandbags at the Piggotte Community Center. We would be sure to check on all our neighbors, friends, and family members during and after a storm, and always help with cleaning up. My parents said it's important to volunteer your time and energy whenever you can, but especially in your own community. I was also taught you can always make a difference in the world by starting in your own backyard. It takes a village to raise a child, so that child can grow up to serve his village.

I love South Daytona; I was born and raised here. My earliest memories are playing baseball at James Street Park – it was incredible! I met most of my closest friends at those fields,

and I even went to school with many of them at South Daytona Elementary. My mom actually volunteered at that school, and my dad volunteered as a coach for my recreational and travel baseball and flag football teams every season. My dad no longer coaches anymore, but lots of my friends still refer to him as Coach Rick.

I am now a senior at Atlantic High School, and yes, I am still playing baseball. My freshman year at Atlantic is when I really put my volunteer hours in. Our coach at the time, Coach Benjamin Antwan Brown, was amazing when it came to giving back to our community. We as a team always participated in the Thanksgiving Basket Brigade and helped unload truckloads of pumpkins every year for First Baptist Church's Pumpkin Patch. One of my favorite memories was when some of my teammates and I participated in a Wiffle Ball tournament for a Ball Parks 4 Him fundraiser, and our team won \$500 in cash; but instead of keeping it for ourselves, we donated all the money back to the charity. That was a very proud moment for my teammates and I, and it felt amazing giving back to the ones who needed it most. My high school team and I also volunteered for The Miracle League – an organization that gives special needs children a chance to play baseball – which was always very rewarding.

My youth group at church also had plenty of opportunities to volunteer. We would serve dinner to military veterans and help set up for kid functions for every holiday. I guess you can say that volunteering is a great way to give back to the community, but really the community is like your home; it's important to take care of your home. It's where you live: it's your friends, family, school, and church. It's where I grew up and maybe one day, I will raise my own family here. I truly love my community here in South Daytona.