

2022 Steinbeck Scholarship Recipient's Thank You Stories

Andrea Hanson — The Eleventh of Eighteen

Dear women of the LWML CNH,

Thank you for your support through the Steinbeck Memorial Scholarship! I am very thankful for this grant, as well as the steadfast blessings of God through your prayers. I am blessed to be pursuing my undergraduate chemistry and dance degree at St. Olaf College with your support!

My name is Andrea Hanson and I grew up on the mission field in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and South Korea. This year is my second year living in the United States!

We have served as missionaries for my whole life now. I was born in Chiayi, Taiwan, where my father was the chaplain at Concordia Middle School and my parents were doing outreach. Then we were based in Hong Kong for 14 years, and I grew up there, attending an international school and engaging with the Church of All Nations. For the last 3 years, my family has been in Seoul, South Korea, where my father serves as the pastor of the International Lutheran Church.



While I grew up participating in the service trips we would go on as a family, it wasn't until high school where I really connected with the church and the schools I was attending and tried to find more ways to serve the Lord. In Hong Kong, our school had a program called Interim, and I was able to go on service trips to Thailand for Habitat 4 Humanity and to Cambodia with CWF. In South Korea, I volunteered with AWANA, leading Bible lessons and songs for elementary students every Wednesday afternoon. I really began to value that aspect of community building.

I plan to pursue an education in chemistry education and dance. I really loved my chemistry courses my freshman year and decided to explore education as a possible career application. I grew up serving the local community and the communities we visited on trips, and so I was inspired to keep that aspect of my life. This past summer, I gained experience working with college students by being the laboratory assistant for the general chemistry course I took last fall. Thus far, I have enjoyed working with students of all ages, and I am enrolled in the introductory education course this fall to explore this avenue. Another one of my passions is dance. I was so fortunate to make it on the St. Olaf Company dance team and learn more about why we dance and how to use dance as a tool to connect with people. In Dance 100, I really enjoyed learning about dance and movement from a sociological perspective. I also studied the historical aspect of dance and how movements hold meaning culturally. My knowledge of dance is continuously growing! I am extremely excited to take more dance course this year, and especially looking forward to my study abroad to New York in January. I will attend dance classes, performances, visit historical sites and museums, meet and interview working dance artists, and write extensively about dance. I hope to develop a greater understanding of the role dance can play in my future.

I plan to graduate in the spring of 2025. If I have continued on the educational path, then I plan to live in Minnesota and teach at a public school for a couple of years. My dream is to gain an international teaching license and follow God's path to wherever in the world He has me go. I was very encouraged by my biology teacher at Seoul Foreign School, who was my Bible study leader for our Thursday afternoon Discipleship group. The discussions she held nurtured my faith, and I often sought her advice and prayers. I would be blessed to be a similar mentor to young people. I would also love it if I could keep dancing somehow, maybe lead a social dancing after school club, or be a faculty advisor to a dance team.

Thank you again for your constant prayers and support for me and my family. I am blessed to have grown up in this wonderful church community, and I am excited for God's plan for our future!

Blessings, Andrea