



Associated Colleges of Illinois

Bethany Anderson
Olivet Nazarene University
ACI General Scholarship



One of the reasons that Bethany Anderson chose to attend [Olivet Nazarene University](#) in Bourbonnais, Illinois, is that it had a marching band. "I thought that was great," she says. Anderson explained she was home-schooled, and it was in high school that she was finally able to participate in a musical ensemble and play the flute. Her favorite ensemble was marching band, and she wanted to continue in college, she says. Another reason that Anderson chose Olivet Nazarene is the school offered her major, social work, and the university offered a Christian education with a biblical worldview, she says.

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Now a junior, Anderson thought she'd like to be an elementary school teacher, but when she read a description of social work, she realized it fit her interests better. "You're able to help people in so many different ways," she says. "For example, you could work in a hospital, you could work in a school, you could work in a police department, you could work in the mission field, you could work with the elderly, you could work with children,

you could work with immigrants and refugees, so that really interested me – the wide array of opportunities."

After college, Anderson sees herself working in emergency management or possibly working abroad with an emergency relief organization. "I would really love to work in the mission field. Part of social work is being so hopeful that you can bring hope to people who are in low places in their life," she says.

Anderson, who is from Crystal Lake, Illinois, is grateful to be an ACI General Scholarship recipient. "Hearing that I had gotten that scholarship meant so much to me, because it meant that someone had seen me and seen my life and seen my story," she says. "Getting the scholarship has made such a difference for me because it has allowed me to continue my education here at Olivet."

In addition to marching band and her studies, Anderson works with Food Recovery Network, a national organization that recovers food on campuses after the food service provider has finished serving for the day. Network volunteers pack up the food and send it to the Salvation Army. She is active with her church, Kankakee First Church, and works on campus in the advancement operations office. Anderson is also part of Diakonia, a social work club at Olivet Nazarene, and has worked with Save Our Streets, which provides support to people who are homeless.