1. **Have you become aware of significant needs in your family, school, and/or community? Please explain how you have worked toward meeting those needs. (1500 characters)**

A lot of underprivileged children in Indonesia had to quit school when the pandemic started due to lack of electronic devices and cellular data. I knew I couldn’t help the entire population of underprivileged children, but I could still help contribute to providing proper access to education for some of the children by organizing a school-based fundraising event, Walkathon.

I gathered donations from participants (students /teachers /staff), encouraging their family and friends to pledge a fixed amount of money for each kilometer the participant walks. The 2 weeks of promotion were a hassle and full of trial and error as we continuously improvised on our strategy to encourage participation. In the beginning, we distributed the digital posters through our school communication platform, but there weren’t as many participants interested in joining as we initially expected.

After countless back-to-back meetings, we decided to create an innovative promotional video explaining the primary purpose of our cause and the entire process rundown of Walkathon. I believe that the promotional video was a key point in encouraging people to join because it stated a clear purpose of our cause for the Walkathon. Slowly, more people started pledging, and within 2 weeks, we had around 100 participants joining. At the end of the event, we were able to raise a total fund of $9,200 which was donated to a non-profit organization called Hoshizora.

Through these funds, it helped 8 underprivileged Indonesian children receive proper access to education. It was the biggest student-organized fundraiser at my school, and the board of directors decided to make Walkathon an official yearly event. It was nice to hear how something small can end up being a huge event especially if it can provide a significant change in people’s lives.

Notes:

This is a very honorable venture.

Content wise I would say your essay is on point, but you might want to revisit the structure. I suggest breaking your essay down into paragraphs (example above) and use an outline to guide you.

As for the character limit, you might want to avoid using too many prepositions and shorten redundant sentences (I gave examples above).

1. **Briefly describe a time that your efforts have fallen short, a goal was not accomplished, or aspiration was not achieved. (500 characters) What steps did you take to recover from this defeat? What resources did you use? How and why are you different today? (1500 characters)**

It was a pleasant Friday afternoon despite it being gloomy all week. After all, when else can we get sunshine during Indonesia's rainy season? Everything was all set, all my members knew what had to be done, and there were no complaints from the teachers whatsoever. A subtle vibration suddenly disrupts the very tranquillity of my room. A text message read "Cat, I need to talk about the competition." The event was a day away, and I thought I had prepared everything that was needed. All was good, or so I thought, and now I'm back to square one. I straight away worked on it and came up with a new rubric and plan that night. I immediately emailed/called my teacher to have the rubric checked, to make sure the end-of-year event would and could still be done as planned. Thankfully, the teacher accepted it and the EOY event went well, but I spent the days and weeks after that event reflecting and questioning how I could've missed that.

I realized I wasn’t a good leader because I didn’t always involve all my members in the event planning. I tend to have my own thoughts that I unconsciously executed on my own without communicating them to my members. As I wanted to improve and prove to myself that I could do better, it compelled me to run for president in my new school. I organized a few events and one of them was a Halloween event for the school. From the beginning, I made sure to organize the event differently than I did before. I began with distributing tasks based on each member’s willingness and skill set, especially coordinating them to ensure that each task was explained thoroughly. I also paid extra attention to consult with the teachers and head of school for their opinions in every progress or change on the proposal and planning to avoid any miscommunication. The role and support of each of the members contributed to the productivity and success of the event with effective work distribution and no last-minute changes like the End-of-Year event. I felt that it empowered my members to acquire and develop skills like collaboration, communication, and time management. I could see greater efficiency as none of my members were left out which was a huge improvement from how I used to lead in my previous school. An important lesson I learned is that everything takes experience; it includes learning to become a leader who respects, listens, delegates, and communicates well with their members.

Notes:

I really like how the second part of the essay directly addresses the prompt. Nice experience! I think proofreading it one more time would help to polish the flow and make it more concise.

The first part of the prompt, though, asks you to ‘briefly describe’ an event. You’ve written a good story, however to keep it within character limit, you need to be very direct and concise. It’s also important to consider how the first part of the prompt ties into the second part. The reader would need to know exactly what happened that lead you to the reflection on the second part. It’s okay to not be as descriptive with your story (less visual/sensory descriptions and dialogue).

1. **We strive to create a rich and varied educational environment by admitting students with a wide range of: (1500 characters)**
   * **Goals**
   * **Interests**
   * **Skills and talents**
   * **Life experiences**
   * **Perspectives**
   * **Cultures**

**Tell us your story. What will you contribute to our university community? Be specific**

I have always been very community-oriented. The school I grew up in has taught me that we all have a role in making the lives of those around us better. I was a Student Council President twice for 2 different schools. I believe my experience in leadership positions equipped me with  communication, decision making, and collaboration skills that can be contributed to the school’s community through clubs, student-led initiatives, student advisory council, etc. Furthermore, I’m a part of an organization called Edubeyond that primarily helps tutor underprivileged children. I’ve been a tutor for 3 years now and I’ve taught English, Mathematics, Science, History, etc. I believe that my experience in teaching different people from different backgrounds illustrates my strong adaptability and lesson-planning skills which can be useful when joining the school’s clubs.

I have a keen eye for detail which correlates to my strong event-planning skills. I believe that these skills can be contributed to the school’s event clubs like Fight Malnutrition, Y Fiction, Delta Alpha Pi, BYU Chinese Club, etc. As an individual who likes to interact and engage with other people, it makes it easier for me to communicate with the suppliers and vendors for the different events that the school is running. I’m a people person and it makes it easier for me to feel sympathy and relate with other people which is helpful when building trust and strengthening relationships. Being an experienced event planner, there were moments when I had to handle a certain area in that I have little to no experience. After having to handle a few events, I would consider myself a reliable and adaptable individual because I could master operating systems like sound systems and lightning operators within half an hour. My skills in adapting to various aspects can venture out to application platforms as well. For example, in one of the fundraising events that I organized, I had to master how to use Mail Merge in order to save time and energy from sending emails one by one. Within a few hours of continuously researching and watching YouTube, I can easily grasp the important components of the platform. I believe my strong adaptability, tech savviness, and flexibility skills can be contributed to the school clubs because I can be a reliable member of the team and I can pitch out many ideas and concepts from my experience being the Student Council President twice.

Notes:

I think your skills and experiences no doubt will give significant contribution to the school 😊

Structure wise, I suggest you listing down exactly what you want the school to focus on. For example, I see you want to include various experiences, interest, skills and talents, such as:

* Student Council President
* Tutoring
* Eye for detail
* Event planning
* People person
* Adaptibility
* Tech savviness
* Flexibility

I understand that the prompt gives the impression that you should list down a wide range of the above things, and it’s amazing to have so many things to offer. However, I think because you listed so many of these, you kind of lose your focus on answering the prompt. It’s okay to stick with a few. Going back to the prompt and the character limit, it’s more important to structure and weave a few elements in a way that the reader can understand how exactly you can and want to use those valuable experiences, interests, and skills within the school community.

My suggestion first and most importantly is to start with an outline. List two or three interests, skills, and talents you want to focus on, show how you have proved them in your previous experiences, and then proceed to specifically convey how you can use those within the school community. It’s great that you mentioned school clubs and events! By doing this I believe you can narrow your focus and cut down on the word limit.

1. **A BYU education will be spiritually strengthening. BYU students have a unique opportunity to seek learning by study and by faith. Describe how you would explain to a friend or family member the reasons you want to learn in an environment like this. (1500 characters)**

I came from Tzu Chi School which is known to work in the missions of charity, medicine, education, and humanitarian with the spirit of learning, sincerity, integrity, trust, and honesty. They believe in the equality of beings and the Buddha-nature latent in every person. Hence, I grew up understanding the importance of these values and I’ve been applying them in my daily life by organizing various fundraising events and contributing to charity work in orphanages. Researching about the culture of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints resulted in my discovery of similar moral standards which include personal honesty, integrity, obedience to the law, and dedication to the acquisition of knowledge. I’ve always studied in an environment that holds strong values and I believe that BYU holds a spiritually strengthening environment that can complement well with how I conduct my learning in high school. When I first entered Tzu Chi in Grade 1, it was solely because I was interested in learning in an environment like BYU. My friends and family have always supported my decision especially when I want to learn in a school like BYU that offers a unique opportunity to seek learning through faith. I believe my explanation about my interests in BYU will be given full support by everyone around me.

Notes:

The environment you grew up in definitely plays a part in shaping your beliefs. It’s good to show how your education has supported your beliefs.

Going back to the prompt, I believe it directs you to *write to a friend or family member* about why you want to learn in an environment like BYU considering the spiritual and educational aspects of the school. Instead of telling the reader how your friends and family members will support your learning, your essay should be crafted as though you are telling *them* why you want to learn in BYU.

Concluding the essay, you can definitely tie in how your experience at Tzu Chi and your own beliefs motivate you to learning at BYU and what you think you will gain from a spiritual learning experience.

All the best!

Thalia