

Title: Addison Trail student shares her experience of seeing Justin Bieber perform

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Addison Trail senior Hailey Calhoun holds up her ticket from the 2012 B96 Jingle Bash she attended Dec. 15, where she saw Justin Bieber perform. Addison Trail special education teacher Vicki Ream (left) and special education teacher aide Tim Homan (right) worked with BOOM Entertainment and B96 to make Calhoun's dream of seeing Bieber perform come true.

It has been nearly a week since Addison Trail senior Hailey Calhoun's dream of seeing Justin Bieber perform came true, and the smile on her face hasn't lessened.

"My cheeks hurt from smiling so much," Calhoun said with a laugh. "I can't believe I actually got to see Bieber!"

Her dream came true thanks to Addison Trail special education teacher Vicki Ream and special education teacher aide Tim Homan. They saw the challenges Calhoun faces on a daily basis and wanted to do something to reward her hard work. They contacted Zach Moss, vice president of marketing and new media with BOOM Entertainment, and Moss was able to get Calhoun two tickets to the 2012 B96 Jingle Bash Dec. 15 at Allstate Arena through BOOM's direct partnership with B96.

Homan said he knew Calhoun's grandmother had recently passed away, and he wanted to help Calhoun get through this difficult time in her life.

"Addison Trail is about family, paying it forward and caring for people – and that's what I wanted to do for Calhoun," Homan said as his eyes filled with tears. "I might be working to become a teacher, but Calhoun has truly taught me. It's great to see her progress, and she always gives 100 percent."

Calhoun is an aspiring singer and songwriter, and you can often find her reciting Bieber's lyrics and dancing to his songs in the halls of Addison Trail.

“Bieber changed my life and saved my life from being dull,” Calhoun said. “He’s so strong and gives back to others, and I want to be just like him one day.”

When Moss came to Addison Trail to give Calhoun the Jingle Bash tickets, her eyes filled with tears, and she grabbed Moss in a hug.

“I could hardly move – I was so shocked,” Calhoun said. “I was like, ‘This isn’t happening right now!’”

She brought her cousin with her to Jingle Bash, which was her first concert. They had an unforgettable time.

“It was crowded and full of girls screaming,” Calhoun said. “It was awesome.”

She said some of her favorite moments were a moment of silence for those affected by the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy, seeing PSY (who sings “Gangnam Style”) perform and, of course, seeing Bieber on stage.

And she’ll always remember the teachers who made it possible.

“I love them even more than I did before,” Calhoun said of Ream and Homan. “I really had a fun time my senior year, and I’m really going to miss being at Addison Trail. I have a life I never thought I would have.”