

· W O R T H Y ·

2020 Worthy Women's Scholarship – Finalist Essay

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There is this strong stirring in my heart to change the world as I know it, or even more so, as I don't know it. It has always been my heart's desire to live a life serving underdeveloped countries with medical needs that they lack. Ever since I can remember, I have wanted to serve on medical missions; traveling the world, serving, educating, and loving communities that are behind the times in the medical field. I am currently a nurse on my way back to school to become an NP. This scholarship will help me gain the momentum to follow this dream, guide teams with the knowledge that is needed during these mission trips, and lead teams that will touch the lives of thousands of people along the way.

I have been able to do a single medical mission to Haiti with my nursing degree. I was one of the most experienced medical professionals on the trip. During this, I was able to help educate the communities in sexual education, as well as discuss much needed topics during one-on-one visits with patients. This trip was enlightening, frightening, and life altering for me. It has secured the desire of my heart and allowed the hopes to continue to travel and serve take root and dig deep into my soul. With this desire, it has also called me into looking at working for a company called Doctors Without Borders. This is a dream that someday I hope to fulfill. In doing so, and the call to travel, I have also had the realization that language is a great barrier when trying to make change. Thus, I have started to learn French on my own, as a start to a dream to serve communities in Africa where French is their preferred language.

Honestly, I don't think that I chose this path at all. I think that this path chose me. Ever since I could have serious conversations with people about my career, I knew that I wanted to serve medical missions. I am currently an inpatient oncology nurse, so I walk journeys of pain and hardship daily. I also see the light and joy of small, and to most, irrelevant goals that are met every day. In this, I know that change does not come quickly. It does not come to those who are not willing to work for it, and it does not come to those who are too busy looking the other way to see it. Pursuing this degree will bring an abundance of freedom to my career. It will allow some financial stability, increase my knowledge in healthcare that I can share with the world, and bring mentors into my life that will push me to do things that allow me to pursue my dreams.

In each day, a blossom becomes a beautiful flower, a bird sings a new song, and we as women are changing the world.