

· W O R T H Y ·

2020 Worthy Women's Scholarship – Finalist Essay

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How would I change the world, I feel that day by day I already have, or starting to at least. As a 37-year-old single parent, survivor of domestic violence and a Montessori teacher, I have learned quite a bit about life. Being a survivor of domestic violence my mental health and getting help, getting quality legal assistance and being able to find a supportive childcare was huge for me, but it wasn't easiest to find.

There were plenty of struggles and once I became a Montessori Teacher, it hit me. There was a light bulb on how I was going to change the world and little by little I started picking away at the goals that I made for myself to make that change in the world. What is it do you ask... well, I am planning on creating a center that is catered to women of domestic violence.

There was something about being a Montessori Teacher that truly inspired how I looked at myself. The internal change I made in order to work on my mindfulness, and positive attitude. Even though I was a teacher, I applied the same principles to my life. I saw dramatic and positive changes. I was learning by doing and changing day by day. I wanted to share my knowledge to the world, but I also felt like I have some understanding to life around me and that adults are somewhat stubborn.

But if I could do it, I knew motivated people would be able to apply the same practices. Like I mentioned before, I wanted to open a center. This center would be a one stop shop of legal assistance, therapy and holistic wellness services, like yoga, meditation for the community at large and especially individuals that have been affected by domestic violence. Apart of this center would be a Montessori school that would be catered to the mid to low-income population. This way the Montessori philosophy becomes more public and generally less monetized, my center that has the childcare provided with it will provide a percentage of the tuition paid to be applied to each student through a 529 plan, which is a college savings plan (trust me I know what I am doing.) It all starts by taking in the whole person, and Montessori is the way to go, additionally I will be creating an app for victims of domestic violence to have a discreet way to get help.

This scholarship will help me pay off some of the student loan that I received, hopefully placing the payments down a bit so that when I am finished with school I am able to attend Law School and eventually free up finances to built this program. I have already made great achievements, I created my app for victims of domestic violence, I began a support group page on Instagram and created a website. I also am finishing up my degree at Lesley University for Human Services and then will be attending Law School. Regardless on if I achieve and get this scholarship, I am not stopping myself from pursuing my goal to change the world in someway to help the next future generation learn mindful and positive social emotional practices which is what my center will be providing to the community.