

I am determined to be the best nurse I can be, be a person of assurance for the patient, be confident in my skills and abilities to help the patient, and most importantly, to be the patient's advocate and champion for their health and well-being during a time when they cannot do it for themselves. I firmly believe it is the nurse, who has to be 100% committed and who has empathy and compassion, which makes the best nurse and can make the most dramatic difference in a patient's life when they are most vulnerable. That is my dream, my goal, to be that nurse a patient can truly rely on and to do my best to hone my medical skills and knowledge to stay on top of every possible medical option.

Becoming a nurse for me is simply not a job or career choice for me, but a calling. I earned a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism in 2000, always having a love of writing and communication. I worked as a newspaper reporter for 8 years and I loved it. But in 2003, I got married and began my family. Twenty weeks into my first pregnancy, my son was diagnosed with a rare and fatal bone disorder called campomelic dysplasia. I had the awful experience of losing my son and it was shortly thereafter I developed a pulmonary embolism as a result of the trauma during delivery. I spent 12 days in the hospital, on a regimen of Coumadin and heparin, and it was the nurses who tended to me that helped me both physically and emotionally cope with what I was going through. I had multiple visits with the perinatologist before and after I lost my son, and I found inspiration in the nurses I came into contact with. Also having Graves' disease, I eventually had to have a thyroidectomy, and three months after that surgery, I had an emergency appendectomy. To say I was in the hospital and in doctors' offices quite a bit is an understatement. I became fascinated with the world of medicine and the art of nursing. From my curiosity, a calling soon became clear to me.

During the past 8 years or so, I have developed an extensive knowledge of medicine through my own experiences as a patient. Researching my own medical conditions, I became an expert on various aspects of medicine and especially the art of the nurse: How she not only does best by her patient medically but tends holistically to the patient. I loved many of the nurses I came into contact with and it soon became clear to me that in order to pay it forward, to become the full person I was meant to become, is to, in turn, be that nurse for others in times of need. I want to be that nurse that smiles and brightens the day of someone, even if for a moment, who is going through a life crisis. It is that smile that can carry a patient over and aid in the overall healing process. I truly believe that being a nurse entails not only a patient's physical needs, but their human needs, and a nurse should have compassion, empathy and total respect for each and every one of her patients.

I remember, years later, the nurses who were that caregiver for me in my times of need. I want to be that for someone else and I will promise to go above and beyond to make sure that each and every patient makes sure they feel they are not alone, that I have compassion and caring for them, and that I will do everything possible to see they get the best care possible. Most everyone in life has had to be hospitalized or has had medical care. It is usually not a pleasant time during these situations, and the experience is something that remains with the person for a long time after the actual event. The doctors involved, and especially the nurses, who have a lot of contact with the patient, are remembered by the patient. It is important for the nurse to be that patient's advocate. I remember my advocates during my time of trial. If I can be that for someone else, then I will have attained my life calling.

Being a mother of 3 children, and living off of one income (my husband's), we are very, very financially strapped. Any and all scholarships and financial aid are much-needed and would be extraordinarily appreciated.