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### What Drives Me

I've always believed that one person can make a huge difference in the world. I seek to be one of these people by choosing a career path in which I dedicate my life towards serving others. I'd love to fulfill my lifelong desire to be a changemaker in my community by pursuing a PhD in psychology and a career as a counselor or a psychologist specializing in minorities or special education.

My childhood was filled with friends and family members who have disabilities including cousins among whom some are autistic, transgender, deaf, and have various mental illnesses. I also tutored special education students during my freshman year of high school and this changed my life. As the program progressed, I realized how much I looked forward to seeing them everyday. My time spent with these students was fulfilling unlike anything I'd previously experienced. I learned how to interact with people who were different than myself, and how important it is to have an open heart, welcoming all walks of life. I also loved knowing that I was instilling positive growth in the lives of underprivileged students. This was when I discovered that my main passion in life was to help others.

My family, friends, and special education students that I grew up with hold a special place in my heart and have inspired me to go into the "real world" and advocate for other people like them. I feel that minorities are often cast aside by society and not given the equality in treatment that they need. I'm extremely passionate about changing

this in my work as a psychologist by acting as the voice for these minorities while they are overlooked by nearly everyone else.

I seek to earn more than just a college degree. My biggest goal in life is to have a job that is more than just a job. I envision a future where I'm so passionate about helping people that going to work everyday won't feel like "work." I think those who love what they do are the happiest and most successful. I aspire to be one of these people. I love helping others and I view my future career as a lifestyle of kindness and empathy rather than my work solely being a job.

In addition to being a psychologist for special education I'd love to pursue work in many other areas. One way I'd like to do this is by setting up free counseling for those in need but who are unable to pay like the homeless or veterans. I believe this would be extremely beneficial in leading to increased awareness, opportunities, and equality for them. Offering free treatment is so important because money should never be a roadblock to receiving help. I receive fulfillment through helping others, and this means much more to me than a paycheck.

I want to serve as a light in the dark for those in need. I strive to be a changemaker, and it all starts with one.

