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What Drives You?

The idea that I can make a difference in a child's life drives me. Did you know that 1 out of 5 children diagnosed with childhood cancer will pass away from cancer, and that some pediatric cancers like DIPG have a 0% survival rate? Facts like this drive me to make a change. Childhood cancer is a disease that will always have a special place in my heart. My little brother was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma in 2012. He was a kindergartener now shoved into the scary world of chemotherapy, feeding tubes, and PICC lines. My brother was lucky enough to go into remission after just a few months but not every child is. Therefore, I want to be a pediatric oncology nurse to make the lives of kids like my brother better.

I want to be a nurse because they have the hands-on relationship with patients that doctors don't get to experience. I am all about getting to know the kids and spending time with them one on one. Personal connections are important for children, and hospitals can be scary places. Nurses need to be compassionate, empathetic, and tactful. The best thing a nurse can have is empathy. Empathy means that you can feel what someone else is feeling, this is a very important quality when caring for someone who is in pain. I want to be that person kids feel safe around in such a dark time in their lives.

I have made plans that put me on track to become a nurse. My dream school is Southern Utah University, which has an incredible nursing program. I am only a sophomore, but I already took a campus tour this summer so I could learn more about the program and what I need to do in order to get in. I have done multiple things that will prepare me for a higher education in nursing. This year I joined the HOSA club (Health Occupations Students of America) where I worked with others to prepare for a health care career. I have also enrolled in CE Medical Anatomy for my junior year to prepare for college. Finally, I intend to volunteer at a nearby hospital so I can gain more medical care experience.

In conclusion, the idea that I can impact kids' lives in the future makes me excited to get started. I hope to work at the same hospital my brother was treated at some day, and my family has really been influenced by the amazing health care professionals there. Nurses and other health care professionals work so hard and get to save lives daily. I would be honored to join them and change lives day by day.