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Jiffy Lube: “What drives you?”

“Hello, this is Neel with PDX Concierge. How can I help you?” The disgruntled gentleman on the line responded, “I haven’t eaten for days and am in dire need of food”. This is a typical day in my life as I manage my free grocery delivery service to those in need.

I am driven to give back to my community and my company, [PDX Concierge](#), enables me to do so. PDX Concierge is a free grocery delivery service for the elderly, immunocompromised, and disabled and is run on a volunteer basis by me and a team of high school volunteers. In addition, we deliver food boxes from local pantries to support those facing food insecurity. I obtained my drivers license as quickly as I could and began delivering groceries to those in need. This service has “driven” me (both literally and figuratively) to keep people safe and provide food for low-income individuals. I was inspired to start this service after I helped deliver groceries to my asthmatic grandmother during the onset of the pandemic. We have now grown our volunteer base to 100+ volunteers and have made more than 500 deliveries. We have been featured in press sources including [Good Morning America](#), MSNBC, [The Oregonian](#), and more.

Since starting PDX Concierge, I have gained invaluable life-long experiences and friendships that I will be forever grateful for. One example of our service was when we delivered groceries to an elderly veteran who unfortunately sustained injuries during the Vietnam War. In another instance, we helped a woman who was released from a hospital, isolated in a hotel room due to COVID-19 and was in dire need of food. Many times we have delivered food to people who are

completely out of food and their response and gratitude is always amazing. Putting food on their tables and seeing the smiles on their faces has given me a sense of compassion and purpose within my community.

I discovered that I have an inherent passion for the field of business and finance after taking my introductory accounting course and joining the high-school entrepreneurship club DECA. I gained valuable skills in leadership, communication, and business while competing in international DECA conferences. Last summer, I explored finance in the real world through an internship at Bonneville Power Administration as a credit-risk analyst. Participating in DECA and my internship have sparked my passion for business and entrepreneurship.

I hope to someday serve my community at a higher level by pursuing a college education in business and entrepreneurship. The Jiffy Lube scholarship would not only be supporting my education and passion but also contributing to the community that I've fostered through all of my connections and volunteers. By investing in me, you will be investing in my education and PDX Concierge so that I can continue to do what I love.