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## Driven

As a young child, I learned the skill of patience through my father. Through his addiction, I became an expert at waiting. Powerlessly, I would wait by the phone for birthday calls, weekend outings, and other regular father-daughter time. The feeling of powerlessness resided with me as I quickly learned that certain things in life are simply out of your control. At some point, closer to rock bottom, it was clear that I withheld the power to change the things that were around me. Ultimately, my dad's absence and addiction drive me as a person.

In my eleventh-grade year, I began a community service project known as "For The Girls". "For The Girls" is a project that provides young ladies at North Little Rock High School with free accessible hygiene care. In two of the main restrooms at North Little Rock High School, young ladies will see stations filled with tampons, pads, baby wipes, deodorant, etc. Proper hygiene products are expensive. Therefore, not everyone can afford them, which becomes a burden monthly for many families. So what better idea than to just have it in the restrooms at every girl's reach?

As a member of North Little Rock's Mayor's Youth Council (a volunteer organization), community service has become a big part of my life. Adhering to those around me who are unable to help themselves, is a part of who I am. This is important to me because bad things happen— even to good people. Good people are addicts, good people are homeless, good people are victims of adversity, and good people are those who are standing at your street corner asking for spare change. There is no perfect description of what makes a person worthy of love and compassion. Through "For The Girls", I hope to remind young girls of the importance of looking out for one another and that we are all alike. Most importantly, I hope my project will be remembered and valued long after I'm gone. "For The Girls" has been selected as the Project Of The 2022 Year in North Little Rock's Mayor's Youth Council. The positive feedback from teachers and peers fills me with joy to know others benefit from something I created.

As a future medical professional, my work as a community service representative will equip me with the experience to solve problems that affect individuals. In our

current healthcare field today, lower-income families, and colored individuals are underrepresented. As a medical professional, I will actively represent and fight for them. And for those who can not help themselves, I will be that source of help for them and their families through my practice (that I would like to own someday).

As someone who was waiting for phone calls, I have become someone who actively works hard to make a difference in my community. In the future, I plan to continue to be a community service avid by being someone who works to provide everyone with sufficient representation. Through my future work, I hope to impact my environment positively by providing everyone with a chance to become better. I would like to be proof and give hope to those who may suffer from adversity-filled upbringings. I hope that my story and work remind them that regardless of how they were brought up, they still have the power to be who they want to be. I would like those like me to know that you are the narrator of your story and that resiliency is within you.