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Grade 11

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“What Drives Me?”

I am not an accident; my life has a purpose, and this is what motivates me to serve society while ensuring that their mental, physical, and emotional health are met. Over the past couple of years, COVID-19 brought devastation, uncertainty, loss, and misery to many families in my community. These dire situations enabled me to serve and encourage others. This soon became my passion and has driven me to fulfill my calling, and this experience has been so rewarding. This desire enabled me to serve in the children’s ministry at our local church and to bring smiles into the young children’s lives by listening, caring, and showing them empathy amidst their family’s challenges. To further put my passion to work, I have since invested my time in teaching piano lessons, performing medical research, and shadowing.

I am currently teaching affordable piano lessons (\$30/month) to help children and families who have not been able to afford lessons due to finances. I have found that music helps people through difficult circumstances since music is a beautiful communication tool that bridges people and cultures together. My lessons have been able to improve the morale of the children since their lessons have the benefit of improving their mental and emotional health. This experience has brought me so many heartwarming experiences and impacted many families’ lives within my community.

In addition, I am also performing independent innovative biology research through

various research institutions such as the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine and Baylor College of Medicine. Last year, my research involved finding methods to depreciate rates of antibiotic resistance, and this year I plan to work on tissue regeneration, with the goal of working in my first professional wet lab experience. My research has the potential to help make more medicines effective, increase efficiency in sports rehabilitation, and enable people to have an improved quality of life.

Lastly, I have had the opportunity to shadow in a local pediatric clinic. I have deeply enjoyed serving all the young children who came into the office, whether it be by blowing bubbles or providing candy to make them feel more relaxed and comfortable, helping with physical examinations, copying prescriptions, or simply helping get a weight or height. The experience has been invaluable and has instilled a greater love for medicine in me.

Many life experiences have paved my passion to pursue a BS/MD program with the aspiration to become a pediatrician while providing quality and compassionate care. I not only want to propel myself forward, but I also want to inspire the next generation of “drivers” by helping them understand that if they strive for excellence, they, too, can be future leaders. My goal is to leave my fingerprints in my community and the world through intentional service, compassion, and excellence. To me, serving is not simply an action; rather, it is a passion.