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### What Drives Me?

My drive comes from a combination of personal experiences, challenges, and a deep desire to make an impact in the lives of others. Throughout my life, I have discovered that the most rewarding moments come from helping others and transforming difficult situations into opportunities for growth and healing.

When I was five years old, I had my first encounter with healthcare. My mom, pregnant with my little brother, faced a high-risk pregnancy requiring daily injections. At such a young age, I learned how to prepare and administer her shots, something that sparked my curiosity about medicine and caregiving. What could have been a frightening situation instead planted a seed that grew into my passion for helping others through healthcare.

Later, during high school, my passion expanded into action. I became a member of HOSA and joined the Harnett Health Science Academy, which exposed me to real-world healthcare experiences. From shadowing EMTs and doctors to attending professional seminars and becoming certified in First Aid and CPR, along with vision screening, I gained hands-on knowledge and skills. These opportunities deepened my understanding of how healthcare extends beyond medicine. It's about empathy, trust, and empowering others in vulnerable moments.

My experiences were not without challenges. As a military child, I moved to three different high schools, each time leaving behind friends, mentors, and opportunities. However, these transitions taught me adaptability and perseverance. They also allowed me to see healthcare's universality, it's a constant need across every community, regardless of where you come from.

One of the most defining moments in this journey was competing in HOSA's first aid and CPR category. Preparing for the competition required hours of practice, honing life-saving techniques, and learning how to remain calm under pressure. Reaching the state level felt like an accomplishment, but what impacted me most was realizing the importance of these skills in real-world emergencies. Healthcare, I learned, is not just about technical proficiency but about providing reassurance and hope when people need it most.

As I gained more experience, I discovered a deeper calling to advocate for those affected by trauma. My ultimate goal is to become a forensic nurse practitioner, a career that blends my passion for medicine with a desire to bring justice and healing to victims. Forensic nursing allows me to provide care for those in their most vulnerable moments while also helping to ensure their voices are heard. Witnessing the profound impact of trauma has only strengthened my resolve to serve as both a caregiver and an advocate.

What drives me is the desire to make a difference through healthcare. From helping my mom to pursuing hands-on opportunities, I've seen how compassion and care can change lives. This scholarship will help me continue my journey to help others and create lasting impact as a future healthcare worker myself.

