

<b>Name *</b>	Emely Magana
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<b>High School *</b>	Burley High School
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<b>Grade (select current year) *</b>	12



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It was supposed to be a normal shift until one of my patients, 214, asked me to check his vitals because he felt “off.” The moment I walked into his room, I sensed something was wrong. His fingernails were blue, his breathing was shallow, and panic in his eyes. I turned my back to check his oxygen. Behind me, I heard his last words: “I am in trouble.” Moments later, his breathing became distorted, turned to gasps, and then there was silence.

That night, I did not cry for myself. I cried because that patient was once someone’s baby, someone’s brother, someone’s partner. In that moment, I understood that patients are more than

diagnoses or documentation they are lives filled with stories, love, and meaning. That belief is why I chose healthcare and why I continue to pursue it.

Working as a certified nursing assistant has given me far more than hands-on experience it has given me a new perspective on humanity. I have witnessed recovery and death within the same shift. I have sat beside residents as they shared stories of their youth, offered empathy when they questioned why life had changed so suddenly, and celebrated birthdays with them because their families never came. These experiences taught me that medicine is not solely about saving lives it is about presence. It is about showing up when someone needs it most.

When I was younger, I believed being “the best” meant being the fastest, earning the highest grades, or standing out on the soccer field. Healthcare reshaped that definition for me. Being the best is not about competition or perfection; it is about empathy, compassion, and resilience. It is about connecting with people during their most vulnerable moments.

The experience in Room 214 changed me. It taught me to carry empathy into everything I do, to see people beyond their circumstances, and to value the smallest acts of kindness that bring comfort during fear or uncertainty. It also solidified my desire to pursue nursing and eventually specialize in pediatrics. I want to support children and families not only through healing, but through hope and understanding when it matters most.

This career is more than a job. It requires patience, emotional strength, and grit to keep learning even when the days are heavy. Witnessing loss stays with me, but instead of discouraging me, it motivates me. It reminds me why I chose this path and why I will continue choosing it.

At the end of the day, I don't just want to care for patients, I want to remind them that they matter. This experience and lesson I will carry into every patient's room and every heartbeat I listen to in the years ahead.

Receiving this scholarship would ease the financial strain of balancing work, clinical hours, and school, allowing me to fully focus on my education. It would support my goal of becoming a compassionate nurse who provides meaningful care to patients and families when they need it most.