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### Teen Driver Scholarship

The stairs outside our apartment in Lima, Peru were steep, and the mornings were always dark when we left. My mother carried my rolling school bag down five flights before the city woke up. She worked twelve-hour shifts as a podiatrist technician so I could attend school. The pay was small, but she treated my education as something worth every hour. At the school gates she always told me the same thing: “Study so one day you can become someone.”

When I was younger, I thought those words pointed to some distant future. I imagined that “someone” was a title people earned later in life. Over time, my understanding changed. I now live and study in Idaho, far from the streets where I grew up. I see that the person I am today exists because of the people who carried me here. Teachers stayed late to help me learn English. Family members gave up time and comfort so I could stay focused on school. Their effort shaped the path in front of me. My responsibility is to continue walking it.

Education has always meant more to me than grades or test scores because it represents the sacrifices that made my opportunities possible. Each class reminds me that someone worked long hours so I could sit in that seat. I am driven by the people who believed in me and the chance to make their sacrifices matter.

I plan to pursue a career as a Physician Assistant in neurology. I witnessed the effects of neurological disease firsthand when Alzheimer’s changed my grandfather’s ability to remember

daily routines and familiar faces. My uncle had ALS, and I watched him lose the ability to perform basic tasks such as breathing and eating before he passed. As our family implored help, I learned the importance of guidance and support to make daily challenges more manageable. My goal is to work in a clinical setting where patients feel understood and supported. The medical system often feels overwhelming. Clear communication and patience can make a difficult situation more manageable. Patients need responsible providers who listen and guide them through uncertain moments. Higher education will prepare me for that responsibility. It will give me the scientific knowledge and clinical training required to care for others.

The sacrifices made for my education have given me a clear sense of purpose. I am driven by the need to make the most of the opportunities I have been given and to build a career where I can apply what I have learned to help others.