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PB&J Scholarship

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### PB&J Scholarship Essay

It was difficult growing up and having to share a two-bedroom house. My parents slept in one room and I shared a small room with my other siblings. I faced a lot of financial struggles because my mother did not have a job and my father only worked part-time. We were on food stamps and welfare. My parents did their best to ensure that we always had a place to stay and food to eat. Some days, we will go without eating or paying the light or gas bill. We financially were not stable enough. My parents didn't have a healthy relationship, and in 2017 my siblings and I were placed in foster care. I didn't know how to deal with all of my emotions while transferring schools, houses, and leaving family members. I began to struggle greatly. I couldn't keep up with my work or manage my emotions. My entire world was turning upside down by the minute. All I wanted to hear was good news and for things to stop changing. Fast forward to 2018, and we learned that my siblings and I would be moving in with my aunt. I expected things to improve this time, but I was mistaken. My grandmother passed away in September of that year. Losing her was even more devastating because she was the one who kept me going. I fell into a deep depression after her death and didn't know how to pull myself out of it. I went through so much in those two years that I told myself I needed to improve myself for the sake of my health and my siblings. I resolved to do better in school and to see a therapist about my feelings. It was difficult at first, but I eventually began to rediscover myself. I made certain that I always received good grades. Through my hard work, I received honor and high honor awards throughout my high school years. It began to hurt less as I grew and learned from my past. I can say that at such a young age, I had to mature and step up for my siblings. My background does not define who I am, but it has shaped me into a strong independent woman.

Having a difficult past has made me a stronger person. It made me realize that I wanted a better future for myself. I want to attend college to demonstrate that you can survive even if you

come from a dysfunctional family. You'll be able to conquer whatever you want. My ambition is to work in the medical field. That is why I saw an opportunity to learn how to become a Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) during my junior year of high school. I took advantage of the opportunity and applied for the class. I applied to this program because I want to study medicine and knew that this opportunity would help me get a head start. This program was extremely difficult, but it was well worth the effort. This program helped choose the nurse I would like to become. I want to become a pediatric nurse because I believe I have ways with children. I grew up with a big family and the need to care for them. I just would like to care for children and be their support. Just as I have a great support system my grandmother and aunt would have been my support since my parents left. These two women are the reason I continue to study. I want to make them proud, especially given everything they've done for me. When I was 14, my grandmother died, and she didn't stop fighting until she knew my siblings and I were safe. Since I knew she was a strong woman, I realized I wanted to be like her and never give up on my goals in life. Since that day, I've been working on improving myself. My aunt, who is my legal guardian, has had a significant impact on my life. She showed me that I am valuable, that I am capable of anything. She has transformed me since I began living with her. I began to perform better in school. I was on the honor roll for all four years of high school. Bringing all of my awards home to my aunt and seeing how proud she was of me kept me motivated to succeed. It's these reasons I want to go to college, to have a better future and to prove to myself that I can succeed.

It's been difficult to be a role model as one of the oldest children. I need to be a role model for my younger siblings. I've been through so much in my life that I've lost track of myself, but I've gradually rediscovered myself. I gained self-love, sincerity, and the ability to be very strong. When I started high school, I discovered that I was a very outgoing, independent, and kind person. I greatly improved my time management skills. This has aided me in maintaining honor roll status throughout my school years. I was able to accomplish my goal. My family is another factor that helps me stay focused. They have supported me through all of my difficulties and pushed me to do better. They remind me that I am valuable. All I want to do is make them proud. I am a strong, motivated, and resilient individual who would like to continue my education and become a successful pediatric nurse.

