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I have grown up in a single-parent household since I was four. I lived with my mother and my older sister, and with not much income coming in we moved around a lot, eventually bringing us to Powell River where we were able to live in one house for seven years before the owner sold the house. Our only option was to move into an RV. In October 2021, I moved in with a friend’s family while my mom and sister moved into a 5th wheel trailer in a local campground. My mother is on long-term disability and has been unable to work for the last twelve years. She has undergone many many tests, but no one knows what is wrong. Some days are so bad that she cannot get out of bed without help and she moves around by using two canes. Many mornings during a flare up, as we call it, half her body does not work; it is as if she has had a stroke with half her face drooping. It becomes very hard for her to speak; most people cannot understand her, but thankfully I can understand what she is saying because of all the time I spend with her. She is often sleepy; so sleepy that usually once I went to school she would go back to sleep, and I would have to wake her up after school for dinner. I would walk to school with my sister or catch the city buses and then do the same after school. I always made sure that my homework was done before the last school bell rang at the end of the day so that when I got home, I would be able to help my mom out. I would help by cleaning up, doing dishes, laundry and anything else that needed to be done. My mom always had a positive attitude and tried to be okay enough to take me to dance or sports. She always tried to be able to come watch me compete, but hardly ever could. I love my mom and I would do anything to help her. Watching and helping my mother go through this mystery-illness is a part of what inspired me to go into the health-care field, so I can help someone who cannot help themselves or be some kid's superman. I want to be the person my mom needed and still needs when we go to the hospital; I want to be the person I needed when I was a kid.

After graduation my plan is to move to Nanaimo and go to Vancouver Island University (VIU). I have applied for the Practical Nursing program and am eager to hear back from them. I plan on being a full-time student and when I am not in classes or labs I will be studying and working hard to get to my end goal. I want to learn and grow in my strengths, finding ways to work through my challenges. I cannot wait to meet and get to know others who have a similar dream. I also plan on volunteering in the healthcare field while in school to gain more practical experience of the field’s inner workings. If I am for some reason unable to attend school in Nanaimo this fall, I will take some first-year courses here in Powell River that would get me set up and ready for the program I want.

Last fall I began passing out and having seizures. I can have up to ten seizures a day. My head always hurts after a seizure, my body is often sore and sometimes I cannot remember the last few hours which makes leaving home really hard. Facing the reality that full-time, in-person university may not be realistic for me right after graduation is really hard as this is my dream. I am currently awaiting a variety of tests to identify the type of seizure I am experiencing and develop a plan for moving forward. I have made plans to keep me on track if I am medically unable to attend in Nanaimo post-graduation. I still plan on taking university courses. It goes without saying that Covid 19 has put a big damper on plans and so has this new medical issue of mine, but I cannot and will not let those stop me from taking steps to fulfill my dreams of going into the healthcare field and helping others.

I joined Army cadets in grade seven when I was just twelve. Through cadets I learned to shoot and joined a team that went to a number of competitions including one at the national level. In just three years, Cadets helped me evolve from the kid-in-the-corner-that-no-one-knew-could-talk to being the cadet leading everyone on parade. Cadets taught me so much about leadership, communication, teamwork, responsibility, and so much more. Cadets helped me find my voice and use it. They helped me to find a life and who I was outside of helping my mother. Before cadets I did not do much beyond being with my mom, so cadets was a place for me to find who I was. After moving up the chain of command for three years I managed to make it to the top. I became my Core's Regimental Sargeant Major in my third year, meaning I was the cadet that led everyone. I was the one at the top of the food chain so to speak. I was the one who taught others how to lead and teach. In cadets we try to be an active part of our community; I loved that part of cadets. I did not care about the recognition or the thanks, all I cared about was that I was helping others. Every time there was an opportunity to volunteer, I would jump at the chance to help others. I participated in poppy sales, laying candles for veterans at the cemetery, Trash Bash and more. All I could ever ask for was to help those who needed help. Cadets helped me do that and now it is time to move on and do something that will help more people than I ever thought I would be able to.

I am an extremely passionate person about the things I do, and I love to help others. I joined my high school's Gender and Sexuality Alliance club (GSA) in grade nine. I have been slowly taking more of a leadership role in the club year by year. In 2020 I became the Chair of the GSA and work hard to make sure everyone feels welcome, safe to attend and participate. I try to encourage others in the group to step up and take a bigger role than they have and even help them in leading meetings. I assist them in making their agenda, stepping aside and letting them start their own initiatives and only stepping in when I am needed or wanted. I feel that if I were to talk solely about myself involving this club it would be wrong. Despite the fact that I am supposed to be talking about myself for this scholarship, it is not just me making a difference in the club, it is everyone; it is their help, participation and perseverance that is making a difference, without them I would not be making this difference or leading anyone. All our members, whether still at school or having graduated, have made a difference in my life and I hope that I have made a difference in theirs. Our club is a family that tries to make our school a more welcoming, safe place for everyone. The teacher sponsor for our club is a wonderful person, she does what she can to support the club in whatever way possible and has helped me be comfortable and confident enough to lead this club. Our club is not very big, but it is home. The GSA is where I found myself, where I was able to express myself in a way I never thought possible before. They helped me admit to myself that what I had been feeling for years was okay and supported me in accepting myself for who I am. The Brooks GSA is and will forever be my home.

My dream is to help people, and I want to do that to the best of my ability. Going to school is how I am going to be able to reach this dream. My dad has never been in the picture and my mom, being on long term disability, does not have the money to help support me going to college. Worrying about money and having to work on top of going to school full-time is not good for my medical condition or my mental health. I want to help my community and this scholarship will help me be able to focus my time and energy on reaching that goal. I am a hardworking and dedicated person; I do not give up on things even when they get hard. When things get hard, I try and find a way to solve the problems and get through it to reach the end goal. I am dedicated to the path I have picked for myself: to become a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). I have made it this far in life with all the hardships that I have gone through, and I am not planning on letting them get me down now. I deserve this scholarship for what I am putting it towards. By the end of my time in college I will have learned what is needed for me to be able to help others and give back to my community.