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Just like every other young kid out there who dreams of being a policeman, a fireman, or a doctor, I too had this dream; I wanted to be a veterinarian. Once I began growing up a little bit and experiencing life itself, I changed my mind. I decided early on in middle school that I wanted to work in the medical field, specializing in pediatrics. Many things in my life led me to this decision.

The most important reason I changed my mind was the influence from my younger brother. My brother has learning disabilities and was diagnosed with ADHD in kindergarten. I have witnessed my brother struggle through school, tackle difficulties with social skills, and attempt to overcome issues with many normal daily activities. I have cheered him on and supported him his whole life. We have always been close as brother and sister and because of this it has driven me to pursue pediatric medicine to help kids like him in making their lives easier.

Another reason that has reinforced my dream of working with children in the medical field has to do with my experiences while volunteering with younger children throughout high school. One occasion that really confirmed my desire to work with kids is when I volunteered with lower income elementary school children in an after school homework program. These children struggled in school due to language barriers, learning disabilities, or lack of support at home. Every child in my room had so much potential and desire to succeed; they just needed a little help with some support and encouragement. I will never forget one day a girl in my class was working on her multiplication of nines. English was a second language for her and I could tell that she was confused and frustrated. I showed her a trick that I had learned in elementary school to make learning multiplication of nines easier. The next day that I came to volunteer, she came running to show me that she now knew her nines because of the trick I had taught her. It enforced to me that kids can succeed if given the necessary care and guidance.

Because of my experiences with children and how much joy I feel helping them, I believe that a career in pediatrics is the perfect calling for me. I have learned that each child grows, learns, and

develops at different paces and that each individual pace is normal for them. As I gave this some thought, I realized how much a child's development relates to a rose.

Each child can grow and develop here in the city of Portland, when we allow support and encouragement to shine upon them. Just as roses love the sun when it feeds them with nutrients and allows them to grow to be beautiful and healthy, I want to be the sun that loves, grows, and cares for our children's health here in Portland. Children are young roses in need of a little "sun" to help them bloom.