

My life revolves around my community. While I work a part-time job as an office assistant, my “real” job is being a servant to my community. In my community, I give people a practical hand with matters in and around the house, such as hanging drywall in somebody’s house, tearing out bushes from an elderly lady’s yard, or grouting a whole basement of a large house. Whether it is reaching out to a hurting man in the grocery store whose wife just died from COVID-19, or entertaining two autistic children for hours while their grandmother shopped, or helping run a massive three-day charity yard sale, I love being of personal and emotional assistance to the people of my community. Whatever my community asks of me, I will do, as I want to help others enjoy a better life.

I am a 17-year-old enrolled at Arizona State University in the Biochemistry (Medicinal Chemistry) program at the School of Molecular Sciences. I graduated from high school with highest honors in 2020 at 16 years of age with an Associate of Science and an Associate of Arts degree while maintaining a 4.0 GPA, making straight A’s. I transferred to ASU in the hopes of beginning a great academic journey into graduate school, where I may increase my knowledge to further serve my community.

Because my parents immigrated to the US in 1998, from Brazil, I hold dual citizenship. I have visited abroad on numerous occasions and have become familiar with the hardships endured in third-world countries. While boundless opportunities arise with significant academic studies, I know the keys to unlocking an education are determination, perseverance, and unwavering hope in what the future holds. I believe the rewards earned through the pursuit of academia are the greatest achievable.

My love for science and the medical field leads me to consider pediatrics as the way to tie in my love for children and medicine. In 2019, I conducted a large research project on neonatology. My mother and brother almost died when he was born due to multiple complications. But, thanks to neonatal advancements, their lives were saved. This was an inspiration to my project. Nonetheless, the thought of teaching in higher education has occurred to me. While in high school and upon graduation, I enjoyed tutoring. The joy of seeing a student understand something and make good grades was very rewarding. Once I make my final career decision, I will strive to do my best to reach my goals.

One of the deepest concerns I have is for special education children and children with learning disabilities. I have assisted several children in my life and have grown to really love special-needs children. In my experience, I have found that many times, their capabilities can be underestimated. Over this past summer, I was given the wonderful task of helping a precious 14-year-old girl understand addition and subtraction. She had really struggled in school and was totally hopeless. I was thrilled with the opportunity and was able to successfully explain the concept to her, and she was able to totally understand it. The greatest joy to me was when the concept “clicked” to her – she was beyond excited!

I have found that a big factor in these children's development and success is the people in their lives. The moral support, the caring heart, the love, and the support make a huge impact on the lives of these children. Oftentimes, students struggle in school because of domestic unrest, bullying, discrimination on the basis of race, gender, ethnicity, and the like. I have truly seen how issues in the home, such as parental divorce, child abuse, and violence, can impact a student's academic performance. Consequently, I decided that the best way for me to combat this issue in my community would be to study and practice pediatrics. Growing up, I was blessed with a wonderful pediatrician who really took the time to understand my concerns in my personal and academic life. This meant a lot to

me, and I want to give this opportunity to others. As a pediatrician, I hope to be a support in the lives of disturbed children in all aspects.

Whether I end up in pediatrics or teaching, I will pursue graduate school. My parents are very supportive of their children receiving a college education. My 19-year-old brother is going to law school and my 14-year-old sister is working on an associate degree. As a family, we consider academic achievement to be an important goal in life, and a scholarship will be a great tool in achieving this goal. I believe the successes achievable through my education will benefit my community, and this is the core root of my motivation to be successful in college. My parents are hardworking and will do everything they can to support my journey, but it is a financial load for them as they have three children aspiring to go to college at the same time. Consequently, I sincerely ask to be considered for this scholarship.