My journey into the social work field began when I was sixteen years old as a dietary aide in Chelsea Retirement Community in Chelsea, MI. Prior to my employment at this facility I had no experience working with older adults, and I had my share of reservations about the idea. However, I soon discovered that working with older adults would become a lifelong passion of mine. I held my position with this facility for two years, only leaving so that I could attend school at Michigan State University.

After this experience I knew that I wanted to work with older adults in an interpersonal setting, but I did not have a good idea of what my career options were. Finally, during my third year at MSU I discovered a field of study that would not only allow me to work with older adults, but to help better their lives – social work. I was accepted into the School of Social Work at MSU in February of 2011 and began my studies the following August. During this time I had the opportunity to volunteer with Active Living For Adults, an adult day center in East Lansing. This program allowed me to interact with and provide enrichment for dependent older adults in a social setting. I was fortunate to be able to complete my undergraduate field placement at Ingham County Medical Care Facility, a wonderful long-term care facility in the Okemos area. There I was able to gain rewarding experiences working individually with clients, creating and implementing care plans, and working with an interdisciplinary team.

I am currently working toward my Master’s degree in the Advanced Standing program at the University of Michigan. My field placement is with the Bereavement Coordinator of Mercy Hospice in Troy, MI. Through this experience I hope to expand my knowledge and skill set in geriatric social work in order to better serve my future clients. My current responsibilities include bereavement work in individual and group settings, as well as writing care plans for bereavement clients. During my time at UofM I am also working with Meals On Wheels of Ann Arbor. My work there includes assessing clients for appropriateness of services, documenting client and volunteer information, and delivery of client meals.

My time in the field has piqued my interest in medical social work as a possible career field. That being said, I continue to be open to any and all opportunities to work with the older adult population.

I will graduate from the University of Michigan in August 2014. At this time I will have completed my Master’s in Social Work with a concentration in Interpersonal Practice and Aging in Families and Society. In addition, I will have completed a minor in Management of Human Services and received a Specialist Certificate in Aging.