My name is Ann Marie Carufel. I have been accepted in the social work program at Oakland University. Fall classes begin September 2013. I will be attending the satellite in Mount Clemens at the Anton Frankel Center. This satellite is strictly for the social work program. I am currently working for a private duty home care company called Home Helpers & Direct Link. I was recently informed of this opportunity for a scholarship through the GSWSM. I am a member of GSWSM. I have a husband and two teenage children who have been very supportive during the last two years while I have been in school obtaining my associates degree.

Working in the senior healthcare industry for the past six years has given me insight for where I would like to direct my curriculum course. Before that I worked for the phone company, Michigan Bell through AT&T for 20 years. I felt a strong calling to see if there was life outside of the phone company.

After exploring different opportunities with different senior related companies I decided it was time to go back to school. I was not sure what I wanted to be “when I grew up”, so I started with my associate’s degree in general studies. Now that I have achieved this goal, my vision is crystal clear; I have been called to serve in the social work industry.

I know this is a calling because I have had to overcome quite a few obstacles in my last two years of undergrad to obtain an associate’s degree, and with perseverance and commitment, this goal has been successful. I have learned that going back to school is not just about obtaining a degree. Going to school opens ones perspective on life as a whole. Growth occurs in different ways then ever imagined when our brains are stimulated. This alone has made this journey a successful one.

Being a candidate for a scholarship award such as this, to me means I will have extra support woven in transparently, to keep me strong along this path that I plan to follow. Having a degree in social work will allow an open field of opportunity when I finish my studies. The senior population is especially near and dear to my heart, as I am amazed at the wisdom our seniors carry with them. The compassion that one needs to have to go into social work is something that I am passionate about. If we do not have a sense of compassion we cannot relate ourselves to others, which in my opinion is the essence of a great social worker. I am passionate about making our world a better place, treating people with dignity, care and kindness, and above all else, serving our seniors in all ways possible to make their lives happy and bring a smile upon their face, even through all the challenges they may be facing. Working with families through tough dynamics can be a challenge to say the least, but being able to be a strong resource to help families through their tough times seems to be a goal I am wanting to advance in.

I believe I would be a good candidate to receive this scholarship because I have passion and conviction for the journey that lies ahead. I will not settle for second best, I will always strive to achieve the best possible outcome for all involved. I plan to humbly serve as a social worker, always putting people’s needs first. My Community service involvement includes serving on the Shelby Township Area Optimist Club as a member, as well as a Board of Director; also serving as an adult facilitator for the Confirmation program at St. Therese of Lisieux and also a Catechist. Through community service projects people create strong communities. Strong communities offer support to one another. I plan to always be a support to another as a building block of success for all to have. Thank you for your consideration in this scholarship.