Personal Statement

Stephanie Nassar

Oakland University

My name is Stephanie Nassar, I attend Oakland University and my goal is to become a social worker. My interests are Mental Health and Gerontology

**Social Work Interest**

 Helping people is something that I’ve always been interested in doing. After I graduated from high school, I wasn’t exactly sure what major I needed to pursue to reach my goal at helping others. I thought that the best way of helping others was through obtaining a degree in the medical field; so I got a job at William Beaumont Health System. I believed that working in a hospital setting would make me feel more comfortable and prepared for my future career. I worked in the nutrition services department; my job was to assembly, delivery, and pickup of patient trays, and also assisting dieticians in monitoring and recording patient’s calorie intake. Working in a hospital gave me so much satisfaction; helping those who couldn’t help themselves brought me so much solace. I always tried to go above and beyond to try to make sure the patients are comfortable and have everything they need. I always made sure, whenever possible, to help them getting things they couldn’t do or get for themselves. I always took extra time listening to them talking about their problems, fears and worries, and tried to be as helpful as I could, even if that meant performing tasks that were not included in my job description. I relished the fact that when I left a patient’s room, I had always done everything I could to fulfill all their needs. This work experience at Beaumont hospital, made me realize that I am capable of listening and understand the problems that they’re going through, and most importantly, I realized that I was able, most of the times, to come up with the right solution, or say the right thing, to help patients with any given problem they were facing. So, after I discussed this with my husband, family and close friends, I decided that a Social Work career would fit my character best, and would allow me to give back and actually make a difference in my community.

**Strengths and Limitations**

 One of my best character traits is that I’ve always liked doing things for others when they are in need. I am an open, caring, understanding, good listener and a helpful person. I always try my best to offer support to other people when needed. I never walked out of a patient’s room knowing that they were in need of something that I could help them with. I’ve always had this drive to understand people’s problems and try to help them out with it. I do need to learn though what my limits are, and when to let people accept that they need to help themselves first before outside help can do them any good. In the social work field, there will be times where I won’t be able to help someone like I want to for reasons that have nothing to do with me, and I need to be able to accept that.

**Diversity in the Workplace**

 My work at William Beaumont hospital made me exposed to a setting of employees and patients of different ethnical backgrounds. Since I view all individuals as humans rather than members of groups, I found it easy to interact with all the individuals, no matter what their background was. Furthermore, working in a diverse environment, as well as being in an interracial marriage, paved the way for me to become more familiar and knowledgeable about different cultures, which made it easier for me to socially interact with any person from any given background, without feeling that there is an “Iron Curtain” separating us.

 Social work is a career based on helping those who can’t help themselves. Clients seeking the help of social workers need individuals who have a passion for helping others. I know I possess personality and the competence required for taking the necessary schooling that will place me in a position where I would be able to achieve my personal goals, and help others at the same time.