Ever since I was a little girl I knew that my passion in life was people. I was a very talkative child who always expressed an interest in what others had to offer. My parents would share their recollections of how I would approach even strangers to strike up a conversation. While at first they were concerned about my behavior and apparent lack of fear, after implementing some safety measures, they later came to appreciate my natural curiosity and interest in others and even encouraged it. I was fascinated by people’s stories and learned from every encounter. To complement this quality, I embraced my family’s strong value system of giving respect to each person and understanding the uniqueness of each individual and their special gifts they have to offer the world. I also recognized my exceptional talents and abilities that I could use to give back to others. Thankfully, this mindset has stayed with me throughout my childhood, adolescence, and into young adulthood.

This played itself out by becoming involved in life experiences that have furthered my understanding of people and increased my interaction with them. However, there is one specific experience that really finalized my decision to pursue a career in Social Work. For the past two summers I served as the Programming Intern at Fleishmans, an assisted living facility. Working closely with the Programming Director, I led therapeutic recreation activities for the residents including facilitating socialization and discussion groups, initiated and directed a drama club, oversaw a bowling league, and helped supervise an annual dream cruise. The goal of each activity was to encourage seniors to maintain their physical, cognitive, emotional, and social health. To supplement these groups, I visited individually with residents to offer individualized companionship and support. At first I was a little skeptical about working there, feeling the age difference would be a barrier, and concerned that it might be depressing. However, it was such a life affirming time. Each day I looked forward to meeting with the residents, talking with them, getting to know them intimately, and seeing what a big impact I had on their lives. It was fulfilling to improving their quality of life, imbuing it with meaning. Often they would comment on my sincere caring and compassion as well as effective listening skills and it was poignant when I left; they came over to me to share their feelings of loss on my departure. .

In conclusion, I am very eager to become a Social Worker. I have had many life experiences that have led me to this choice and I am confident in the decision that I am making. I know I have the determination, work ethic, personality, and heart to get through school and become a positive addition to the Social Work community. I hope that your school gives me the opportunity and chance to fulfill my lifelong dream.