

SECTION V: FINANCIAL INFORMATION CONTINUED

Provide a narrative (one page) of why you believe you need, or should receive, financial assistance, such as a Texas 4-H and Youth Development Opportunity Scholarship to attend the college/university of your choice. This narrative should include details about family situations such as: care of family members, medical, family financial burdens. *HINT: Do not start your narrative with "I deserve"....*

When I was little, I loved lining up all my dominos in a circle. Then I would knock one down and watch to see what happened. As the first one fell, it knocked over the next, which knocked over the next, continuing until finally they all lay on the ground. I have discovered that economics and college are a lot like my dominos. In recent months, the economy has taken a turn for the worse, tail spinning into a full-scale recession. The economy has helped cause the price of gas to skyrocket. The price of gas forced my dad's former employers to cut back their trucking side of the business. Since my dad was involved in trucking invoices, he was also laid off. Although he was finally able to find a job, it was at a greatly reduced salary. The reduced funds have forced us to cut back on spending in all areas. This smaller budget has completely demolished any college funds from my parents. Thus, the economy began the fall of dominos, resulting in the loss of my parents' financial resources, thus impacting me.

However, although current economics removed any possibility of college money, my parents never planned to pay my entire way through college. They fully believe the saying that, "With greater opportunity comes greater responsibility." My parents want me and my siblings to be responsible with the wonderful opportunities we are given, and respect the possessions we own. My life at home should prepare me for the "real world." They are accomplishing this goal by allowing me to pay for many personal expenses myself. I will pay for car insurance, clothes and college on my own. Because I will pay for college funding entirely on my own, scholarships are an absolute necessity. I intend to continue volunteering even as I attend college. I have several reasons for this, but the most vital one is that I want to help others and be focused on other's needs, not simply my own. Community service will also assist in my studies! Research shows that students involved in community service perform better in college. However, in order to accomplish this, I must have enough time free from work and school. With this scholarship money, I will be able to continue helping in many ways around the community!

I have discovered several local organizations that I love to volunteer with. In order to continue helping at these groups, I must attend a nearby college. I will begin my college career at Temple College, a local university. I chose Temple College because of its convenience to where I live, its inexpensiveness, and its high quality nursing program. At Temple College, I will receive the benefits of first-rate schooling while still living at home. By continuing to live at home, I will save money by avoiding expenses such as dorm-rooms or housing. Temple College's nursing program is nationally recognized as a commended program by nursing accrediting agencies. My sister has graduated as a nurse from Temple College, and is succeeding in her work at Scott and White Hospital. I know that by attending the Temple College School of Nursing, I will be assured of a reliable and exciting job wherever I choose to work!

You may wonder why you should give me money. After all, I have not experienced the rigors of college. How do you know that I can succeed? The answer is clear. Unlike many young people, I have already faced an enemy much harder than college and won! That enemy's name is Central Auditory Processing Disorder, a learning disability. Now that I have faced the much harder challenge of a learning disability, I know that I can and will thrive in college! I do not expect college to be easy, but my diligence in high school has prepared me for the rigors of nursing school.

I am grateful for those who make scholarships available. Without these people, my college career would be impossible for many years to come. Without this scholarship, I would have to work for many years before entering college. I am determined not to be in debt, and scholarships such as this Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship will help me to do that.

SECTION VI: RECORD OF EXPERIENCE

4-H PROJECT: List up to four (4) of your most significant 4-H projects throughout your entire 4-H career. Describe years involved, knowledge and skills gained, scope and activity related to projects, demonstrations, talks, exhibits, workshops, tours, interviews, etc. Describe why these projects were important and significant and what impact your involvement provided you to have on other people. **Put emphasis on the quality of your experience, rather than quantity. Please reference the level of participation/involvement as L=local, C=county, D=district, R=regional, S=state, N=national, and I=international. DO NOT ADD ADDITIONAL PAGES BY EXCEEDING THE AMOUNT OF ROOM PROVIDED.**

DOG CARE AND TRAINING (2006-09) I learned a wide variety of information, from the education required to be a bomb-sniffing dog handler, to characteristics dogs should have to do therapy work, to how to nurse an anemic dog back to health. I investigated career opportunities (bomb-sniffing dog handler, veterinarian, etc.). While at Agility class, I learned when to praise the dog, correct procedure for activities, how to teach commands. Learned how to treat and prevent dog diseases. Watched dog shows and agility contests(N, 2R). Learned the behaviors of wild dogs and wolves and how it applies to domesticated dogs.

AWARDS: County Essay Contest (1st – 2008). WORKSHOPS ATTENDED: Recognizing dog “personalities,” dog training, dealing with aggression (2L). VOLUNTEER: 55 hrs(L,R). HRS STUDYING: 146. HRS DOG TRAINING: 100. HRS WORKING AT VET CLINIC: 45. HRS IN WORKSHOPS: 24. PROMOTION EVENTS: Dog project booth (2C). DOGS RAISED: 2. PLACES VISITED: vet's office, pet stores (28L). EXPENDITURES: \$2102.51. PEOPLE TAUGHT/SERVED: 383.

PUBLIC SPEAKING (2005-09) Attended 13 Speech and Drama meetings; learned how to deliver impromptu speeches and how to make a speech outline. All of my hard work paid off when I received 1st place at District in two contests, allowing me to advance to State! I am already seeing the benefits of public speaking skills. While running for club president, I presented 2 speeches announcing my qualifications. Learned coping strategies for Auditory Processing Disorders. Interviewed and introduced 6 speakers at club meetings.

AWARDS- 9th- State Public Speaking Competition- Educational Presentation (2008), State Share-the-Fun - dramatic interpretation (08), District Food Show (4th-08, 3rd-07). WORKSHOPS ATTENDED: Toastmaster's (2L). SPEECHES GIVEN: 115(L,C,D,S) Food Guide Pyramid(L), dramatic interpretation based on the Return of the King-J.R.R. Tolkien(L,C,D,S), education presentation on persecuted church(L,D,D,S), Club reports/announcements(L), interviewed and introduced club speakers(6L), presented examples of speaking contests(L,C). PRACTICE/STUDY HRS: 300. SIGN LANGUAGE HRS: 32. EXPENDITURES: \$150.75 . PEOPLE TAUGHT/SERVED: 238.

CLOTHING AND TEXTILES (2000-09) I enthusiastically tackle projects that other advanced seamstresses avoid! My sewing collection includes complex quilt blocks such as the Lone Star Quilt, a Renaissance-style costume and a cross-stitching with complicated beads and metallic flosses. Despite the difficulty of my creations, people have frequently commented on the quality of my work! This high-quality has been reflected in 4 Grand Champion of Textile Crafts from a youth fair!

AWARDS: Grand Champion (4C), Reserve Grand Champion (2C), High Point Award (1C – Bell County Youth Fair; Shades of Texas Quilt Show (2S). WORKSHOPS LED: Sewing workshop - appliqué, cross-stitching, sewing lace, novelty pillowcases (C), Cross-stitching (C). VOLUNTEER: 18 hrs(L). HRS SEWING: 2550. ITEMS MADE: 34. PLACES VISITED: 58. EXPENDITURES: \$633.21. FAIR WINNINGS(\$): \$805.00. PEOPLE TAUGHT/ SERVED: 3,155.

FOOD AND NUTRITION (2000-09) One of the highlights of my Food project was winning Grand Champion of Pies, receiving \$1,200 at an auction! Attended Wilton cake-decorating class. During preparation for the Food Quiz Bowl, I memorized which nutrients are supplied by which foods. Learn how to calculate the exact calories and nutrition facts for each ingredient. Learn the signs of food poisoning (salmonella, botulism and how to prevent them. I learned how to apply all this information when my mom was out-of-town for several weeks and I was responsible for family meals.

AWARDS- Grand Champion(C), Food and Nutrition Quiz Bowl captain (2nd- 2008, 3rd- 2007), District Food Show (4th-2008, 3rd-2007). WORKSHOPS ATTENDED: Food Project Leader's Training(C), County Food Show- ethnic dishes, Show rules, etc(4C), Fried rice(L). WORK EXPERIENCE: Classic Catering - serving & clearing tables, washing dishes(07-09). VOLUNTEER: 47 hrs(L). HRS COOKING: 262. HRS STUDYING: 96. ITEMS BOUGHT:177. ITEMS BAKED: main dishes, garnishing, desserts, candy (323). PLACES VISITED: 37. EXPENDITURES: \$399.56. FAIR WINNINGS(\$): \$1,247.00. PEOPLE TAUGHT/SERVED: 2605.

SECTION VI: RECORD OF EXPERIENCE

4-H LEADERSHIP ROLES: List up to twenty-five (25) major 4-H leadership roles throughout your 4-H career. Include volunteer, promotion, and elected/appointed leadership. List roles and responsibilities, years, levels of involvement as L=local, C=county, D=district, R=regional, S=state, N=national, and I=international. **Put emphasis on the quality of your experience, rather than quantity. DO NOT ADD ADDITIONAL PAGES BY EXCEEDING THE AMOUNT OF ROOM PROVIDED. DO NOT ALLOW INFORMATION TO EXTEND TO THE NEXT PAGE.**

YEAR	LEADERSHIP ROLE	LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT	ROLE, RESPONSIBILITIES, DUTIES, AND/OR ACCOMPLISHMENTS (BRIEF STATEMENTS)
08-09	Elected/Appointed	L	President- Conduct meetings, plan agenda, deliver email reminders
07-08 05-06	Elected/Appointed	L	VP of community service: Organized 18 service projects, presented 18 club reports, delivered monthly email reminders about service projects
08-09	Elected/Appointed	C	County Ambassador: Mentor for 2 clubs, perform 2 officer installations, attend Ambassador meetings
08	Elected/Appointed	R	Volunteer Coordinator: Organized volunteers for Dog Show
08, 07	Elected/Appointed	C,D,S	Captain-Quiz Bowl: Strategizing - 2nd District, advanced to State
04-05	Elected/Appointed	C	Attended organization meeting for the Bell County Youth Fair (1000's of contestants)
06-07	Elected/Appointed	C	VP of Programs: Organized 8 club programs, presented 9 club reports
04-05	Elected/Appointed	L	VP of Refreshments: Organized food for 9 club meetings, gave 3 club reports
08	Promotional	C	Presented 4-H Proclamation to County Commissioners in National 4-H Week.
06-08	Promotional	R	Poster promoting 4-H displayed at the Temple Public Library (1,000's of people)
05	Promotional	L	Answered questions at a tri-fold display about 4-H (50 people)
07,08	Promotional	C	Talked to 150 people about the Dog project at the county Open House
08	Promotional	C	Presented a speech and Fair projects at the Leedale Extension Club
06	Promotional	C	Presented my Fair projects to the Leedale Extension Club
08	Promotional	C	Performed my Share-the-Fun entry for the General Assembly of County Share-the-Fun
07,08	Volunteer	L	Gave a presentation for my 4-H club on the Dog Project
08	Volunteer	C	Helped teach & organize a workshop for young 4-Hers on about sewing, cross-stitching, embroidery and applique
08	Volunteer	R	Helped teach nutrition to young 4-Hers
07,08	Volunteer	C	Sorted food containers for the Bell County Youth Fair (4 hr.)
08	Volunteer	L	Did a presentation for my 4-H club on the Food Guide Pyramid
08	Volunteer	C	Served buyers at the Bell County Youth Fair Auction (3 hr.)
07,08	Volunteer	L	Presented my Share-the-Fun entry at 2 club meetings (45 members)
08	Volunteer	C,D	Presented my Food Show speech at the county and district Food Show Workshops (15 people)
06	Volunteer	C	Taught how to make a substitute for aerosol cooking spray
07	Volunteer	L	Presented a demonstration on the Food Show for my 4-H club

SECTION VI: RECORD OF EXPERIENCE

4-H CITIZENSHIP AND 4-H COMMUNITY SERVICE: List up to fifteen (15) of your citizenship and community service activities. List activity, year, and your role in the activity (use Y=performed yourself, M=member of a group, P=provided primary leadership to the group). Describe why your citizenship and community service was important in these activities and what impact your involvement provided you to have on other people. **Put emphasis on the quality of your experience, rather than quantity. DO NOT ALLOW INFORMATION CHARTS TO EXTEND TO THE NEXT PAGE.**

YEAR	ACTIVITY	ROLE IN ACTIVITY	WHY IT WAS IMPORTANT TO ME AND/OR IMPACT OF INVOLVEMENT
04-09	Alterra Assisted Living Home	Y	Lead music service, visit with residents. Some of the residents I see have no one else to visit them. My coming cheers them and takes away their loneliness (138 hr).
07-09	Temple Railroad Museum	Y	Man craft table, teach children crafts (52 hr, 100's of children).
06-08	Small animal clinic	Y	Cleaning kennels, exercising, feeding & bathing animals (50 hr).
08	Pick vegetables for a food pantry	Y	I used my love of gardening to help those who needed food (2.5 hr).
00-09	Volunteered at food pantries	Y, M	Sorted clothes & food, organized donations, distributed food (149 hr).
07,08	Baked cookies for fire-fighters	M	The fire-fighters were so grateful! I was glad to reward them for their hard work to keep us safe (70 cookies).
08	County Commissioner's Court	M	Baked 12 muffins for county commissioners during National 4-H week to promote 4-H (1hr).
00-09	Dishes for needy families & church meals	M	The happy face of a recipient was enough reward for collecting food (136 meals).
08	Kid's Expo	M	Served food, did doll hair, greeted participants as "Belle" (5 hrs).
04-09	Can tabs for Ronald McDonald House	P, M	Money from recycled tabs is given for families of critically ill children (1000's of tabs recycled).
05-09	Sewed clothes for babies	P, M	The supplies I sewed protect the prematurely born babies from injury. It's exciting to make that much of a difference! (6 hrs, 100 items made).
08	Antique Quilt Show	P	It was fascinating to help others experience history through quilts! (3hr)
06-08	Alterra Assisted Living Home	P	Played games with residents (7 hrs).
04-09	Made blankets for children	P	Blankets were delivered to suspected victims of abuse(2 blankets, 5 hr).
08	Dog Show/Agility Contest	P	Re-positioned jumps, made advertisements for volunteers (10 hr)

4-H HONORS: List up to four (4) of your most important honors received through 4-H. List the honor, year received, level of award (e.g. L=local, C=county, D=district, R=regional, S=state, N=national, and I=international), and why you consider the honors listed to be the most important (i.e. how did they contribute to and provide significance toward your personal development?). **Put emphasis on the quality of your experience, rather than quantity.**

YEAR	AWARD	LEVEL OF AWARD	WHY IS THIS AWARD IMPORTANT TO YOU?
2008	9th-Public Speaking Contest (Persecuted church)	S	I learned how to present information in an interesting, engaging way. The most exciting part was that by informing others, now they can make a difference, too!
2008	Share-the-Fun ("Return of the King"-J.R.R. Tolkien)	S	Showed how far I had progressed in my speaking skills. I enjoyed "becoming" the character in my story!
2008	Danforth "I Dare You" leadership award	C	Was a culmination of my 4-H career and a reward for leading others in 4-H.
2008	Outstanding Community Service Award	C	Reminded me how important community service is and encouraged me to continue helping others.

SECTION VI: RECORD OF EXPERIENCE

OUTSIDE OF 4-H LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES, HONORS, WORK EXPERIENCE, VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY SERVICE: Describe how you spent time outside of your 4-H activities, why you devoted time to a particular activity, the impact the activity had on your personal development, and how it benefitted other people. List leadership roles outside of 4-H (include school, church, other youth groups, etc). **DO NOT ADD ADDITIONAL PAGES BY EXCEEDING THE AMOUNT OF ROOM PROVIDED. DO NOT ALLOW INFORMATION TO EXTEND ONTO THE NEXT PAGE.**

ACADEMICS/EDUCATION:

Honor Roll student of Solid Rock Christian School

08-09 1st of 12 students (Chemistry class)

07-08 2nd of 12 students (Biology class)

04-09 Studied art under Betsi Chamlee (oil pastels, tempera, dry pastels, watercolor painting, drawing in black and white, drawing in color, acrylics, collage, and oil painting)

05-06 Took piano lessons from Angie Kiesle

08-09 Chemistry study group

07-08 Sang with the Conservatory Choir (2 1/2 hr. every week)

CHURCH:

2004-09 Helped at 8 church work days- cleaning and yard work (25 hrs)

04-09 Attended church every week

03-09 Distributed pamphlets advertising church programs

04-08 Served as teacher's assistant at VBS

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

04-07 Volunteered at Project Apple Tree in Belton

06-07 Volunteered at the CAC's art camp

05-08 Assisted Betsi Chamlee with her art camp (18 hrs, 20 children)

07 Taught a class on garnishing (13 people)

05-06 Served as a summer library aid

08 Distributed Thanksgiving hams at Helping Hands food pantry

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS/CONTESTS:

2005 Placed 2nd in the Temple Public Library's Bookmark Contest

2005 Participated in the Young Author Contest of the Temple Public Library

05-08 Won Junior High Point Award of Bell County Youth Fair

06-09 Club 4:12 - volunteering, field trips, etc.

05-06 Served on the Teen Advisory Board of the Temple Public Library

06-07 Assisted in organizing girls' youth group

04-07 Participated in the summer reading program of the library

THEATER:

2000 Acted in the play, 'Miss Louisa and the Outlaws'

04 Acted in the play, 'Eight Cousins'

05 Acted in the play, 'Who's In Control?'

EMPLOYMENT:

Classic Catering – serving and clearing tables, washing dishes (07-09)

Northside Veterinary Clinic – cleaning kennels, mopping floors, exercising dogs, feeding animals (08)

Baked apple pie and candy for friends (05-09)

Yard work and car washing for family (04-09)

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

08-09 Helped plan my sister's wedding

Watched many of my brother's sports games

06-09 Displayed artworks in a teacher/student exhibit at the Cultural Activities Center (9 pieces displayed)

06-09 Displayed artworks at the CAC (8 pieces displayed)

SECTION VII: PERSONAL NARRATIVE

Write or type a personal narrative about yourself, highlighting any important facts and information you believe the selection committee should know when considering your application. This would include such things as your history in 4-H, any personal obstacles you have overcome, the greatest thing you will take from 4-H, and how 4-H will help you in the future. Do not repeat any information already contained in the application. **DO NOT ADD ADDITIONAL PAGES BY EXCEEDING THE AMOUNT OF ROOM PROVIDED. DO NOT ALLOW INFORMATION TO EXTEND ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.**

I lay shocked and limp on the hard ground. All around me, I could hear the furious sounds of my mother as she fought to defend me against my attackers. Finally, our enemies retreated and my friends rushed to help me. As Elizabeth knelt beside me, one thought raced around my head. "Was I about to die?"

No, I didn't die, but that is mostly because of Elizabeth and 4-H!

Hi! My name is Bandie the Border Collie and I'm here to tell you all about my best friend, Elizabeth Kiesle. Yes, I know that dogs don't usually write scholarship essays, but I wanted to write a glowing recommendation for her! Oh, by the way, I have experience writing her 4-H recordbook!

Ever since Elizabeth was little, watching her older sisters go to 4-H, she wanted to be a part of 4-H, too. Finally, when she was 10 years old, her brother, Andrew, was old enough and they could join the fun together! It didn't take her long to discover the thrill of a Dog Care and Training project! Whew! I am sure glad she did! If it wasn't for her knowledge in the 4-H dog project, I probably would not be alive. 4-H teaches the skill of knowing which people to contact with specific questions. Who would have thought it could influence life and death? When I was sick soon after being born, Elizabeth had to know who to contact for a diagnosis and treatment. Besides the obvious choice of a veterinarian, her aunt, a professional dog-trainer, helped her many times. Then, later on, my mom and I were assaulted by ferocious coyotes. Elizabeth, her mom, and brother chased off the coyotes, but I was still, lying in shock on the ground. In learning about her 4-H Dog Project, Elizabeth knew what to do in an emergency. She carried me to the car in a stretcher made of a sheet and rushed to the veterinarian. I insisted that a trip to the vet was not required, but no one listened to me. (I hate going to the vet!)

After the coyote attack, Elizabeth realized how much of a difference people can make in medicine, whether the patients are animals or humans. Because of that, now she wants to be a nurse when she graduates. Although she seriously considered becoming a veterinarian, she has determined that nursing will fulfill her needs the best. Through nursing, she can help to heal people, just like the veterinarian helped heal me.

Of course, her dog project is the most significant example of how 4-H has impacted Elizabeth's life! However, it's far from the only one. 4-H also develops goal-making skills. One day at Elizabeth's club meeting, her club manager announced everyone should think through and write down project goals. When she told me about it, I exclaimed, "What! How in the world will you think of goals for all your project areas?" Although it was hard at first, she was able to do it with my help. Now that skill comes much easier to her. Sometimes she makes goals without even intending to, like when she decided to give me obedience-training so that we can compete in agility contests.

In all modesty, one of Elizabeth's favorite activities is being with me and my mom, Cuddles! Despite this obvious first choice, Elizabeth also has a myriad of other interests! They include crafts, sewing, public speaking, cooking, food garnishing, reading, volunteer-work and art. She has been taking art lessons for seven years. Her studies have included oil pastels, tempera, dry pastels, watercolor painting, drawing in black and white, drawing in color, acrylics, collage, and oil painting. Elizabeth loves to visit the public library and search for books on anything from dog training to garnishing to cross-stitching! She enjoys turning whatever she creates into a beautiful work of art, whether it is a painting, a complex cross-stitching, or a Grand Champion apple pie.

Elizabeth's first officer position was the photographer and historian of her 4-H club. She was terrified of this job because it required her to stand in front of the group to take the pictures! All she could think of was the dozens of eyes watching her, examining her every move. Wow! What a change from how she is today! Now she not only stands in front of the club, but leads the meetings as president. No longer afraid to be the center of attention, she loves to speak in public.

Although Elizabeth did not realize it at the time, there was a reason she had such difficulty with public speaking and self-confidence. Two summers ago, Elizabeth was diagnosed with Central Auditory Processing Disorder, a learning disability that affects the brain's ability to process verbal information. Because of this disorder, she has fought a life-long battle to become the confident, friendly individual she is now. I credit 4-H with bringing out the bold determination hidden deep inside her quietness. As she took on harder officer positions with more responsibilities, she was required to speak in public. Her confidence grew with each successful presentation, culminating in several awards in state public speaking competitions. 4-H contests have helped Elizabeth to strive for high goals, to plan ahead and to meet deadlines. Her public speaking skills will give her a distinct advantage over other job applicants.

There is more to school than what is contained in textbooks. There is more to learning than following directions. Elizabeth took advantage of these facts through the non-traditional learning style of home-schooling. Through homeschooling, Elizabeth has learned to take leadership in her own education. She has learned the art of curiosity and learned how to research information, to discover everyday.

As you can see, 4-H has influenced Elizabeth's life in many ways. I'm glad that both of us have had the opportunity to benefit from 4-H. I know that Elizabeth's experiences in 4-H will help her to be successful as she ventures into exciting world of nursing!

SECTION VIII: CAREER NARRATIVE

Describe how you have prepared yourself to have an awareness of and an understanding about career(s) applicable to the degree or technical certificate you wish to pursue. Type of information you may provide include:

- Visits to college/universities and conversations with personnel at those institutions.
- Investigations of job/career opportunities and availability
- Persons/experiences that have influenced you to pursue the degree/certification you have indicated.
- How you decided to pursue a technical certification versus baccalaureate or vice-versa.

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I stared into the deep, oozing hole in my father's chest. The hole was caused by re-opening the incision from his quadruple by-pass surgery. Life had seemed to be improving, and in some small way, getting back to normal. Then came the pain, the night when he rattled the bed with his feverish shaking. An infection had ravaged his body and threatened his life. What could I, at four-years-old, do to help? I longed to help his pain go away! And I did have a way to help! Mommy told me that I could help "fix Daddy's hole." I stood beside his bed, holding bandages and handing supplies. I did not understand everything that was going on, but I knew my mom and sisters were scared. I slowly realized the horrible truth that I might never see Dad again. My heart pounded as I wondered, "Will this do any good? Will Daddy survive?"

The medical team did everything possible to help Dad, using their knowledge of the human body to fight against the infection. They showed my sister how to clean his wound every day. Because of the vigorous efforts of the nurses and doctors, Dad's life was spared. Now I want to give back by serving as a nurse. I want to help others the same way that those nurses did! I want to save lives just like they saved Dad's life!

I have another motivation for becoming a nurse. Two summers ago, I was diagnosed with Auditory Processing Disorder, a learning disability. As a nurse, I can help others with physical disabilities, just like an audiologist and speech pathologist helped me overcome my learning disability.

Since the day that I helped at Dad's bedside, I have researched about the career of my dreams. I had to know whether nursing would give me my four major requirements - job security, variety, flexibility and good pay. Nursing fulfills each one of these characteristics! Nursing, along with most other medical fields, is a growing and desperately needed job. Recently I was excited to notice on the Bureau of Labor Statistics website that nursing is expected grow twenty-three percent over the next few years! This gigantic need for nurses protects its security. I also require variety to keep me interested and a flexible schedule to give me time for dogs, crafts, and short-term mission trips. In nursing, practically any variety of schedule and work environment is available! I can choose from an eight-to-five, Monday through Friday job at a clinic, a twelve-hour night shift at the ICU, or a morning shift at nursing facility. Finally, nursing offers high monetary reward for its relatively short training period. Because nursing provides my major career needs, I am confident that it will be perfect for me. I plan on shadowing a nurse to guarantee that nursing will fit my personality as well.

For the past 5 years, I have helped to lead church services at an assisted living home. I love spending time with elderly residents - seeing their faces light up when they see me - and listening to their tales. Even though their stories may be improbable and well-repeated, I am happy to comfort them by listening. Because of my love for the elderly, geriatric nursing would be the perfect fit for me! The rising medical needs of aging baby boomers increase the need for nurses in these facilities, thus increasing my own job security. I feel confident that I would enjoy this job because I loved similar responsibilities as a child. Whenever any of my family members was sick, I would "play nurse." I positioned pillows, made food and delivered drinks for them. They felt more comfortable and I was fulfilled by helping them. In a nursing facility, I would perform similar tasks.

When I was ten years old my older sister traveled to Nigeria to help a medical missionary family there. When the family returned, they told exciting stories of saving lives at the African hospital. As I sat enraptured in that auditorium, I decided that one day, I, too, would be a medical missionary. There are many short-term missionary opportunities in which I could usually work in the U.S. and then travel to developing countries as a nurse. As a nurse, I will be able to work in developing countries where medical help is an expensive rarity! I will fight death and suffering. Through that work, the world will be a little better because I have lived.

Dad considers the people who helped him to be heroes. One day, future patients will regard me in the same way! Some heroes wear camouflage, some heroes wear Superman capes, but some heroes wear hospital scrubs. These heroes guard infection and bind wounds. They administer medicine and save lives. I am thrilled to join the ranks of these unsung heroes! I will be a nurse!

SECTION X: COURAGEOUS HEART APPLICATIONS ONLY

Please provide a detailed narrative of the obstacles that you have, or are in the process of, overcoming. Please include how long you have been dealing with the obstacle, person(s) who has helped you through your situation, how has 4-H played a positive role in overcoming your obstacle, etc. This narrative should include details about family situations such as: care of family members, medical (personal or family), learning disabilities, family financial burdens, etc. The more complete the essay, the better the judges can evaluate your need.

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to live in a world where you cannot understand the words people speak to you? Where phrases swirl together into meaningless patterns of sound? Where your brain cannot process words? That is the world of a person with Central Auditory Processing Disorder (CAPD). And that is the world in which I live.

I have always had difficulty understanding people's words. The first clue that I was different came before I could speak. As a baby, I was fretful and screamed when someone other than my family came near me. I disassociated myself from the rest of the world. I was very shy, read late, and spoke late. As I continued to grow older, the problems only increased. At eight years old, I still could not speak clearly, used frequent "dis-fluencies" (um, er, etc.), and forgot word sequences. I struggled to remember even two pieces of information at a time. For example, Mom would tell me to dry the dishes and then fold the laundry. By the time I finished with the first job, I could not remember the second one. My family became frustrated at my seeming "forgetfulness" and I convinced myself that I was being lazy. Every night I stared into my discouraged reflection. "Focus! Focus!" I told myself. "Just pay better attention! Listen better! Remember better! You're just not trying hard enough!" But in truth I was trying hard enough. Recognizing my efforts, my parents took me to the doctor, who referred me to a speech pathologist. With her help, my skills improved – at least for a time.

But as the pressures of high school increased, my comprehension skills plummeted. Once again, I struggled to understand information over the phone. I couldn't decipher words, and phrases blended together even worse than before. Terrified that I was going deaf, I soon had an appointment with an audiologist to test my hearing. I was shocked when I heard the verdict; I had perfect hearing. Something between my ears and my brain just could not process words fast enough. I had Central Auditory Processing Disorder (CAPD).

I face many difficulties with CAPD every day, but I refuse to allow it to define my life or 4-H career. I eagerly tackle every obstacle I face to succeed in 4-H. Even though high tension and quick thinking environments are hard for me, I do not shy away from them. I am currently competing as the captain of a Texas 4-H Food and Nutrition Quiz Bowl team. This requires fast thinking to process the questions and buzz in with the answer before the opposing team.

Talking on the phone is also very difficult for me. When I cannot see the person's face, I lose many of the visual clues upon which I depend. However, as the president of my 4-H club and a participant in many other activities, I overcome this obstacle daily.

There were many times when I wanted to quit 4-H. I didn't want to talk on the phone, process questions quickly, or lead others. I am so glad that I never did. 4-H has taught me many important life lessons that will help me in the future. Perhaps because of how hard I work to overcome CAPD, I am intensely competitive and perfectionist. Because of this, it is difficult to overlook my own failings and let it go when I lose a contest. I have learned the hard way that my worth is not measured in how many State public speaking competitions or Food Show contests I win. Instead, my worth is measured by my character - by my diligence, perseverance and integrity.

Another one of the biggest skills I have learned from 4-H is the art of making goals and completing them. When my club manager first required us to write down project goals, I didn't know how I could possibly think of so many goals. At the beginning it was difficult. But the more goals I set and completed, the easier it has become. Now I use those skills to decide how I should proceed into college. My goal is to have enough money to pay for college without borrowing money. I am accomplishing this goal by setting aside time every week to find and apply for scholarships.

Through the challenges of a learning disability, I have developed many diverse skills. I am a strong leader, active volunteer, public speaker, dog lover, talented seamstress, and prolific artist. I am involved in youth group, church, volunteer work, speech and drama club, and 4-H. I am especially active in 4-H as a County Ambassador, competitor, and club president. My job as president has been one of the highlights of my senior year!

I have worked diligently throughout my school years, earning every "A" I received. This perseverance has prepared me for the rigors of nursing school. I will not be satisfied with merely "surviving" college. Instead, through dedicated study, practice and dogged determination, I will thrive.

I have come a long way since the day that I blamed myself for lack of comprehension. At the time, I was shy, had difficulty reading, and spoke poorly. Ironically, though, I have become the opposite of all those things. Now, I love being with people, love to read when I have the chance, and I have won several awards in state public speaking competitions. I have not allowed my difficulties to hold me back from success!