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**Describe a woman in your life who has inspired you to pursue healthcare and make a difference in the lives of others. How would this scholarship help you follow in her footsteps?**

I was born and raised in Vietnam, in poverty. I grew up in a region where dental care is not an essential but a privilege. The one woman who inspired me the most and has been the most influential in my life is my grandmother. Seeing her broken smile and desperate need for dental care has motivated me to choose my career in dentistry. However, I moved to America and haven't had the chance to come back yet due to personal financial problems. Unfortunately this previous year, my grandmother passed away and I never got the chance to fulfill a promise I promised myself before immigrating to America. I promised myself that when moving to America, I will pursue my passion in dentistry and fix the broken smiles in those like my grandmother. Although I was too late to be able to fix her broken smile, I know that I am not too late to help fix others' broken smiles. She is the very reason I am here writing this response, the very reason why I decided to pursue dentistry, and the very reason why I will be going to Vietnam every summer to volunteer for those less fortunate like how I grew up. This trip is very special to me and it is one of the first steps to fulfilling my goals and aspirations. I am honored to be given such an opportunity to share my personal story. This scholarship would make a great impact because I have always dealt with financial problems which is why I never got to go back home to Vietnam ever since I left, 13 years ago. I am a fulltime student, who works part time as a dental assistant to financially support myself. Now looking back, I regret the many years I never went back to Vietnam because I wanted to save money, now that my grandmother passed away, I don't want to regret anything anymore. This would be my first trip ever to help those like my grandmother and if given the scholarship, it would definitely bring a lot of burden off my shoulders.

**If chosen for this scholarship, how do you envision it impacting your educational and career path moving forward? What new doors could it open for you?**

If chosen for this scholarship, it would make such an impact on my education and career path moving forward because it would allow me to be able to go on trips like SAP-VN. This is my first trip but definitely not my last, as I plan to go every summer. And if given this opportunity, it would greatly help me to continue to volunteer. Firstly, this would educate me drastically as I will have a better education and knowledge on patient care and advocate. I will also be getting hands-on experience of what it's like to make an impact on the world little by little. It truly is a privilege for me to volunteer and help those who probably have never seen a doctor in their life. In addition, this would also significantly change my perspective in my career path moving forward as I will be given a chance to understand the world outside of the United States' healthcare system. It would help me to understand the connection between a healthcare worker and patient. All of this will open new doors as I can gain an experience and a story to tell

my future school admissions or even my kids. Gaining such an eye opening experience will change my view of the world and patient care and it will allow me to share these experiences with others. However, it would most importantly open new doors to doing good in the world. Since I've always wanted to go on missions trips like this, it would motivate me to continue this pathway for myself.