

Dear Ms. Graham,

I am writing to you in order to express my absolute gratitude for the generous support that you have provided me through the Mother's Day Scholarship Fund. This scholarship comes at a time where my family has difficulty paying for my education thus, being able to receive support from another person like this is quite moving and I truly cannot express how thankful I am for your generosity.

Growing up was a difficult time for me and my family because we were always surrounded by friends and family who were far more fortunate than us. Despite our lack of access to various resources that others had, my parents put my education and my health above all. They would sacrifice various luxuries and their time to teach me how to discipline myself and how to push through tough obstacles. And in turn, I realized that I could not disappoint my parents because they had given up many things just so that I could gain a successful education. Because of the discipline that my parents had instilled into me and luck, I was able to be accepted into The Bronx High School of Science, where I had an amazing experience and was fortunate to take away so much. After my four years there, I was accepted to Fordham University, where I was given a full-ride.

My time at Fordham was quite amazing, however, due to the very long commute and a sick father, I could no longer attend Fordham and had to transfer to a college that was closer but that would still provide me with a very good education and various opportunities. Thankfully, I was able to successfully transfer to Hunter College, and am grateful to be attending a great college such as this.

After having, transferred from Fordham University to Hunter College, I had to learn to readjust to the new atmosphere. Hunter is far more difficult when it comes to the sciences than Fordham. Despite this, I have been doing quite well academically and am currently maintaining a 3.8 GPA. I am also currently a research assistant at NYU Langone Medical Center and Weill Cornell Medicine and because these are unpaid internships, I have difficulty supporting my mother financially. She is the only one in my family who works to pay the bills because my father is too sick to work and because I do not have any other siblings. Although I do receive financial aid, I am not always able to pay for extra costs like textbooks and summer courses that are required. Thus, a generous donation like this is extremely invaluable to me and provides me with the support I need to pursue a career in medicine.

My goal is to become a physician scientist and learn more about the brain's role in mood disorders like anxiety and depression and this scholarship is currently providing me with the help I need to achieve that goal. Once again, I am truly grateful for the support you have provided me through this generous donation. This scholarship will aid me tremendously in achieving my goals and I appreciate having you as a donor.

Thank you!

***A.W., 2017 Olga Graham Scholar***