

My name is Kimberly Ann Lee. I am a thirty-one year old full-time college student, mother, and wife. I graduated from Little Axe High School in Norman, OK on May 1997 with Honors and top ten percent of my class. I was involved in athletics, a member of the dance team, band, and honor choir. During my high school years I was Snoopy in a musical. My contact with band and choir has won me numerous awards. I was among the Who Who's, took advanced classes and was on my way of attending college in the fall of 1997, however, this dream did not come to pass as that time. Upon graduation I was six months pregnant. If I would have know the future, I would have raised my child on my own, but I was married in May of 1997.

My first son was born in October of the same year. At the age of one month he was diagnosed with pyloric stenosis (semi-permanent contraction of the lower stomach muscles). By the time the issue was found he had almost died. Once the surgery was completed his immune system was compromised. Today his immune system is almost running at one hundred percent.

In July of 1998 I left my first husband and was divorced in October of 1998. The relationship was abusive: physically, verbally, and mentally. My plan was to attend college in the fall of 1999.

I married in July of 1999 and enrolled in college at East Central University. Shortly after beginning college I was diagnosed with third stage of dysplasia (last stage of precancerous cervical cancer). I was given the opportunity that I might be able to have another child, but no guarantees. I attempted to complete the fall and spring semester without success. In August of 2000 my second child was born by emergency c-section. He was diagnosed with a slight heart condition, asthma, severs, and environmental stimulated disorder. Within a year I had a partial hysterectomy. When something like this happens you realize that life is short. Reality sets in that you don't have a lifetime to go after your dreams. Throughout the years I have tried to find ways to successfully complete my college degree.

Since I was currently working in the auditing field as an administrative assistant I tried perusing a Bachelors degree in accounting. I quick found out that

this area of study was not for me on a long term basis. I had always had a drive for the medical field. Even before I graduated high school I wanted to become a Registered Nurse. A dream of mine, but because of decisions I made as an adolescent this dream never seemed as though it could ever become a reality.

In the summer of 2009 I quit work full time and became a full time college student at East Central University. My current husband of eleven years supports this dream of mine. He is currently working two jobs, but in order to pay for school it is necessary to apply for assistance. My children are older now, I tell them not to let go of their dreams. Even though the dream may have obstacles in front of it, might be obstacles you created, if you work hard and believe in yourself then the dream can be reached. Even after all the tribulation in my life I have managed to be the best mother and wife that I can be. I am highly involved in my children's life and school. I volunteer as I can.

I saw a need for implementing a youth program in our small town rural area. With the wide spread childhood obesity and the youth in our area not engaging in physical activity I formed a youth football program. We are in our fourth season. Because our little rural community is mostly poverty level income families we offer the program for little to no cost. First year is \$30.00 and unless a large size jersey must be ordered the cost is free. We have over forty participants between grades 3<sup>rd</sup> thru 6<sup>th</sup>. This not only gets these kids out of the house, but also teaches team work and dedication. In conjunction with the Allen Youth Football Program I helped start the Allen Youth Cheerleader Program. This program is in the second year. Last school year I was cub master and den leader over the local Cub Scouts of America. Unfortunately, not enough parent volunteers stepped up to ensure the programs successes. My home is the hang out for many of my children's friends. I have an open door policy for the youth in the community.

This scholarship will catapult my ability to finish school. The financial obligation with obtaining my college degree is stressful at times. I receive financial aid, but any money that I can be granted will help for the successful completion of my degree. I appreciate the opportunity to apply for this scholarship and the relief, if awarded, will provide for me and my family.