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El Paso Strong Scholarship

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El Paso Strong

Making a Difference in This Community

I had never imagined how life could change so easily in just a day. I had never wanted to imagine how this felt and I could never imagine how the families who lost their loved ones to this tragedy felt then and how they feel now. My grandpa was planning on going to that Walmart that morning but decided he would just go another day. It makes me sick to think what might've happened if he hadn't decided to stay home with my grandma and read the paper with her. We honor those that lost their lives trying to save someone else from danger and those that just wanted to get home to their family and tell them they were okay but will never get the chance. We live on for them to show that they can't break us down no matter what. We may grieve, we may mourn, we may cry, but we will never back down because we are strong.

To me, being El Paso strong means coming together as a community and protecting one another from danger. It means smiling at strangers on the street and wishing them a, "Good morning.", or to, "Have a nice day!" It means not turning our backs on those who are hurt. It means helping those who are broken become whole again. When I was in the All-Region choir back in November, I met a boy in the mixed choir who had lost loved ones because of what happened. They made a video tribute to honor those who had been lost in the tragedy and when

he spoke about the loss he felt and how he would never get to spend time with them as he could before, it took everything in me to remain straight-faced and not cry. Once he started crying on the stage, several people from the choir stepped down from the risers to hug him. I had never seen several people do something like that before. You could feel how deeply they cared for this boy and how they wanted to do everything they could to make sure he was going to be okay. When I looked out into the audience, I saw people holding hands, hugging each other, and comforting each other because they too had lost people and they too understood what the boy was going through. We had come together to mourn the losses of loved ones through music and through being united as a community. That, to me, is what El Paso strong looks like. Being there for each other at our best and even at our worst.

My overall goal in college is to study biology and become a radiologist. I have been indecisive about my career path several times before, but even the other career paths I have considered in the past all have something in common; helping those in need. I want to become a radiologist so I can help those who need it. I have seen my own brother and sister get hurt before and all I wanted to do was help them get better, but I never could. The most I could do was be by their side, but I want to do more than just be by their side. I want to help people who have been hurt get better. By becoming a radiologist, I won't directly administer medications or treatments to make people's conditions better, but I will be able to identify what the problem is at the root and suggest treatment so that I can relay the information to their doctor and have them get the best possible treatment to help them get back on their feet. Many times, I have seen people fall down and need someone to help them back up and I want to be that person that can help other people get back on their feet again. I want to help communities grow stronger by making sure the

people within them are healthy and ready to get back up again. I want to help my grandparents, my family, my brother and my sister, and my friends back up again if they fall.

Hopefully, I will be able to fulfill my dreams of becoming a radiologist and I will be able to efficiently help others identify and diagnose diseases or injuries so that they will get the treatment necessary. Even though I am not the one who will be administering treatment or speaking with the patients directly, I hope that something as simple as diagnosing and suggesting treatment will make a difference in a patient's life and help maintain our community's status of El Paso Strong.