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Personal Statement  
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When I picked up the phone I heard my neighbor, Traudel crying on the other end of the line. She seemed extremely upset and I could tell from her voice that something was terribly wrong. Traudel explained how she had slipped on the ice while walking her dog and she asked if I could come over and take a look at it. I quickly ran next door to find Traudel writhing in pain as she held her very swollen and bent wrist. She looked to me for comfort and assurance that her wrist was all right, but I could tell that it was not. I tried to explain as gently as possible that her wrist appeared to be broken and that I needed to take her to the emergency room.

Traudel's wrist was indeed broken and required corrective surgery. She has been in a cast for seven weeks now and continues to receive physical therapy. I witnessed the physical and emotional roller-coaster Traudel went through as a result of her accident. Even though I wasn't able to help her out medically, it was gratifying to be able to help her out emotionally by supporting her throughout the ordeal. I've learned a lot about the personal side of medicine by "shadowing" Traudel as she recovers. She likes to give me advice about how to be a good doctor and she always says, "Josh, don't lose your heart." I hope that I will remember that advice and become a physician who is full of heart and compassion.

My passion for studying medicine isn't the result of a single event, such as the one I've described, but rather, it is the combination of numerous life experiences. Everything I do, from the clubs I join to the extracurricular activities I participate in – even my decision to choose Human Nutrition as my major – stems from my yearning to help and teach others. My participation as a Cadaver Dissection Team member and undergraduate teaching assistant gave me the opportunity to be involved in sharing with others what I have learned. It is this twin love of learning and teaching combined with my desire to serve people, that draws me to the study and practice of medicine.

I want to be a doctor because I feel an immense passion for people who are hurting. I know that I cannot be fulfilled in my career unless I'm helping to improve the lives of those around me. The profession of medicine presents a unique opportunity to assist others with their medical problems as well as their emotional needs. Implicit in the term "doctor-patient relationship" is the natural tendency for patients to form a close bond to their physician. The patient relies on their doctor to not only treat their immediate illnesses but also to look out for their future health needs and become a friend and confidante. That's the kind of "people doctor" I aspire to be.

I am also captivated by the challenges of diagnosing and treating numerous diseases and illnesses. To be able to take a patient, observe their symptoms, determine which tests are appropriate, and ultimately arrive at the proper diagnosis, would be a tremendously rewarding experience. The way I see it, a physician enjoys the best of both worlds; they have the training necessary to treat medical conditions while also being in a position to connect with people on a

personal level. .

In summary, I want to dedicate myself to making a positive impact in the lives of others. It is the profession of medicine which will allow me to reach this goal by giving me the opportunity to become a life long learner, continually increasing my understanding of the human body while striving to best meet the medical needs of my patients.