

Personal Narrative

I have a vivid memory of a moment that forever changed my life - the day I gave birth. At 42 weeks pregnant, I went for a routine checkup, unaware of the journey that awaited me. My midwife admitted me to the hospital for induction, leaving me feeling alone, scared, and in unimaginable pain. As doctors rushed in and out of my room, treating me more like a specimen than a human being, I felt disconnected from the experience. Although I had always dreamed of becoming a mother, in that moment, I felt a loss of control over my own body and a sense of powerlessness.

Amidst the chaos, a compassionate woman entered the room and recognized the anxiety in my eyes. She cleared the room, took my hand, and provided comfort and reassurance. Her presence transformed the sterile environment into one filled with compassion and support. Throughout my labor, she became my advocate, speaking up for me when I was too overwhelmed to find my own voice. Against medical advice, she fought for my right to deliver my son naturally, and her unwavering belief in my strength became my driving force. With her support, I successfully gave birth to a healthy baby boy, a moment that will forever hold a special place in my heart.

Reflecting on that pivotal day, I felt immense love and gratitude for the nurse who guided me through the journey of motherhood. It was in that moment that I realized my own calling. If I could make such a profound difference in someone's life, just as she had done for me, then I wanted to pursue a career that embodies that same sense of compassion and support. Although I had initially pursued a major in criminal justice, my enthusiasm for rehabilitating individuals caught in the system waned as I encountered challenges in motivating those who were unwilling to help themselves.

It was during my internship at a domestic violence help center that I discovered my true passion for helping others. Working with women in need, I witnessed the transformative power of uplifting one another and providing unwavering support. I fully immersed myself in this role, finding it both demanding and rewarding. However, as the internship came to an end, I sought a path that aligned more closely with my newfound purpose. I explored social work and even pursued a master's degree in the field, but it didn't feel like the right fit for me.

My journey took a turn when I became a mother myself. This experience solidified my determination to work with women in a medical capacity. While continuing my work with women as a transformational recovery specialist, I seized every opportunity to gain experience in the medical field. I worked part-time at a chiropractor's office, shadowed an inspiring orthopedic surgeon, and eventually became a medical assistant under her guidance. Despite the demanding schedule, I pursued the necessary prerequisites for nursing school while simultaneously raising my son and working at a fine dining restaurant to make ends meet.

Throughout it all, I have proven myself to be an unwaveringly dedicated and resilient individual. Whether waking up at 4 am to juggle multiple jobs or taking on a full course load while performing with my band, I have always maintained a healthy work-life balance. The sacrifices I made were driven by my unwavering belief that I can overcome any challenge I set my mind to. As my son grows older and becomes more independent, I am ready to embark on the next chapter of my journey.

Throughout my journey, I have also faced my own battles with mental health problems. Overcoming these challenges has shaped me into a more empathetic and compassionate individual. I understand firsthand the importance of mental well-being and the impact it can have on one's overall health. This personal experience has deepened my commitment to providing holistic care, addressing not only the physical needs of my patients but also supporting their mental and emotional well-being. I strive to create a safe and nurturing environment for individuals who may be struggling with their own mental health, offering them the same level of understanding and support that I have received in my own journey.

Witnessing my friend's final moments in the ICU was a profound experience that further solidified my determination to pursue a career in nursing. As I stood by their bedside, holding their hand and offering words of comfort, I witnessed the incredible impact that nurses had on their care and the support they provided to both the patient and their loved ones.

The nurses in the ICU demonstrated unwavering compassion, skillfully managing complex medical situations while also providing emotional support to the patient's family. They guided us through the difficult decision-making process, patiently answering our questions, and alleviating our fears. It was in those moments that I realized the immense value of a nurse's presence and expertise.

The experience of losing my friend in the ICU profoundly shaped my perspective on the importance of compassionate and empathetic care. It highlighted the critical role that nurses play in not only treating physical ailments but also providing comfort, solace, and support during life's most challenging moments. Witnessing their dedication and the positive impact they had on patients and families inspired me to be a nurse who can make a difference in people's lives during their most vulnerable times.

This experience, along with my personal journey and passion for assisting others, has strengthened my dedication to becoming a nurse. I am motivated by a profound sense of empathy and a genuine desire to provide comprehensive care that addresses both the physical and emotional well-being of my patients. My goal is to offer comfort, healing, and support to those in need, drawing inspiration from the admirable work I have witnessed nurses perform throughout my own life experiences.

I have chosen to pursue a career in nursing due to my authentic passion for aiding others and my inherent sense of compassion. My effective communication skills, developed through my

experience as a therapist, allow me to connect with and understand patients' needs. The resilience, problem-solving abilities, and attention to detail I have acquired from running my own business have prepared me to navigate the challenges of the medical field. Furthermore, my experience in various leadership roles has honed my ability to manage teams and collaborate with others.

Above all, I bring a sense of humor and optimism to every situation. I firmly believe that maintaining a positive outlook, even in the face of adversity, is crucial for providing the best care possible. I am driven by my unwavering dedication to making a positive impact on the lives of others as a nurse. This transformative journey is fueled by my desire to make a difference and bring comfort and healing to those in need.