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Growing up, I always knew I wanted to serve people through the medical field. Seeing the realities, taxing, yet rewarding, of various medical professionals throughout the years has even more so helped me solidify my decision to enter this field. This upcoming year I will be entering college as a nursing student, eventually aspiring to work in pediatrics in some capacity. While I do not know everything regarding the exact area of nursing my experiences will lead me, I am very drawn to work with children and infants. While I am keenly aware that this path will be full of challenges, I feel prepared to take this next step towards gaining knowledge and utilizing every opportunity to learn.

The AnnieRuth Foundation is one of the organizations filled with people who I must thank for investing time and effort to guide participants, like me, in the summer internship program and beyond. Even in the midst of the beginning of the pandemic, I was given the opportunity to research and present medical research with incredible peers under the supervision of medical professionals. I not only gained the understanding of how diabetes mellitus affects the human body, but I also received the mentorship of medical professionals who genuinely cared for us and our futures. Beyond my virtual experience, I received Basic Life Support (BLS) training, allowing me to step outside of research and prepare myself for both the possibility of an emergency, and the rigorous nursing coursework ahead. I am so grateful to have been able to practice on medical manikins and to have the accountability the classroom and instructor provided during my CPR certification. These opportunities have, without a doubt, given me invaluable experiences and connections which will serve me well into the future.

I cannot begin to express how much the AnnieRuth Foundation and the associated summer internship program have prepared me not only to pursue a career in the medical field, but to face life in general. The invaluable skills of interviewing and communicating with mentors and those in authority positions have prepared me for successful interviews and continual connections. But even more than that, the friendships and relationships with peers and people I met through the foundation and the summer internship program have changed my life and will continue to influence me in a way I could only call divine. I truly am so thankful for a place who welcomes any and all, no matter where you come from or who you are, to pursue knowledge, but even more so, to chase after growth beyond the facts.