



2009 Youth Scholarship Program Second Place Winner

"How Your Father, Mother or Guardian Helps Us Protect Our Community"

By Andrea Pinski

Growing up in a family of Community Service workers is what I am used to. For as long as I can remember I've watched my mom get up and go in a moments notice when her pager went off. My grandma and aunts are nurses, my uncle is a Fire Chief, and my godparents are both police officers in Minnesota.

My mom is defiantly my hero. She is not only a major supporter of me but she is very active in our community that she has inspired me to go into the medical field. My mom watched her mother, a 30 year cardiac nurse, help others and as a result all of my moms siblings are police officers, nurses or in the fire service.

For 11 years my mom has been with the Cottage Grove Fire Department as a Firefighter/EMT. She was promoted to a Lieutenant in 2005. She has always been involved in the community side of it, teaching classes to pre-schoolers thru High School aged students, and a counselor and volunteer for years at the annual Safety Camp. She has taken classes through the National Fire Academy to help better the Fire Department and Community. As of right now she is developing a program for senior citizens and plans out our cities Fire Safety week each year in October.

For five years my mom was a Girl Scout leader of my troop, she taught all ten of us girls CPR and First Aid. One Girl Scouts parents accredit my mom in the quick thinking of her daughter who was burned by hot liquid one day. She told her parents that her Girl Scout leader had taught her what to do. My mom is also an instructor for the American Red Cross Baby-Sitting Course, she has taught an estimated 1,500 girls and boys between the ages of 11-15 years old how to be responsible baby-sitters, including teaching them all the basics of CPR and First Aid. She had taught swimming pool safety classes for a development in Woodbury and developed a first for the School District of #833- a three hour class called 'Home Alone,' this is a class that kids can take that no longer need baby-sitters and are being left alone for the first time. All of her classes are usually filled; many times they have waiting lists to get in.

This year after I completed my First Responder and BLS certifications I was able to join my mom several times on a 'ride along' shift when she was on ambulance duty. This was a great experience and only encouraged me that the medical field was defiantly the place my heart was telling me to be. It also gave me a better incite on what my mom does when she is working. She has done quite a bit for our community, especially with the younger children teaching prevention and safety.

I am very proud to be in a family where everyone is involved in making a difference in some way. Some people may say it is in your blood to be in these fields, I think they are right. I can't imagine wanting to do anything besides helping people and bettering the community that I am apart of.