Briefly **(approximately one-half page, single-spaced)**discuss the significance to you of the school or summer activity in which you have been most involved.

Throughout my life, I’ve been surrounded by doctors – my parents and nearly all my extended family members. I grew up in hospital environment, listening to meetings among surgeons about the best approach to treat kidney complications, seeing people crying over their loved ones’ death. I saw delighted parents looking over their newborn babies in the chamber. I understand the patient cycle inside out. So often that I became numb to these hospital scenes.

Until I found a medical NGO named DoctorShare early this year. I took part in some of their medical outreach in Jakarta. And in the summer, I flew 2000km away to Kei Island, Maluku, with the medical team to serve the local village there.

Once I got there, I was really sad to see how people suffer in all aspects, mostly healthcare. There was no hospital. Only a small health center lacking in medical facilities stood the ground against the illnesses that often ravaged the locals. Pak Andi, who suffered from hernia disease, came in pain and asked for help from the DoctorShare team. I approached him and took care of all his registration, screening, and scheduling for his operation. I also had the opportunity to assist the doctor who performed the surgery for him. After the operation was completed, he came to me with a drastic change on his face. The “in pain” expression suddenly changed into a happy face. He brought me a bunch of traditional food to share with the team. I was really touched by his action, especially when he said, “thank you”. Not being able to help myself, I smiled too.

I didn’t know that I could be so happy helping people. The rundown hostel, the dirty water, the buzzing mosquitoes became nothing compared to the satisfaction of seeing people’s grateful faces. Speaking to the senior doctors from the team, I found that those faces have been their driving force to work relentlessly, even in the most inaccessible areas and most inconvenient times. That summer opened my eyes to what it truly means to become a doctor.

My perspective changed. I used to think that becoming a doctor would lead you to a comfortable life as it is a well-paid job. But, in fact, a doctor is a person who helps people with a sincere heart without expecting anything in return. This summer, I developed my own values as an aspiring doctor. It’s about making sacrifices for the good of others.

Hi Carina!

Great job! This is a strong draft and it shines a positive light on you. Please find the comments and suggestions that I have for you on the right side of the document. Looking forward to reading your next draft.

Matahari Kinanti

All-in Essay Editor