**School**: Stanford

**Prompt**: Stanford’s community is an essential part of the undergraduate experience. We come from all walks of life, share our own traditions, take care of one another, and think of ourselves as a family. How do you define family and what contributions have you made to yours?

**Word limit**: 100 to 250 words

# Version 1

In my family, I include my parents and relatives, but also my friends and my classmates. I consider the people at Rice part of my family.

After reading Bill Gates’ How to Avoid Climate Disaster, I realized how far behind we are in reaching emission and waste reduction targets, which could result in the collapse of society as we know it. Something started growing in me: a sense of urgency, a wish to become involved in helping build a greener future. I also wanted to involve more people at Rice. My friend and I decided to start a hedge fund focused on energy transition companies. We thought students would be attracted to the opportunity to research and manage investments in public stocks, and throughout the process, they would learn about different subindustries within energy transition and possible career paths.

Furthermore, we decided that half of the annual profits would be reinvested into the fund and half would go towards scholarships for students who want to pursue unpaid internships in the energy transition sector.

Our initial idea panned out. We raised $150k from City bankers during the fall semester, and 18 students from all years and majors joined as analysts for the fund. Some of the upper-class students will be joining energy transition investment bank groups, renewables companies, and GreenTech firms this summer.

# Version 2 (Reindi/José) CHOSEN

In my family I include my parents, relatives, and friends. But after working closely with José to develop Reindi, a platform that facilitates access to services for families with children with disabilities, and knowing his life story, I feel he is family now, too.

José has two children with Down syndrome. When I met him three years ago, he was exhausted from wrestling with Argentina’s health system to get the care his children need. He knew he wasn’t the only parent in this situation with a child with a disability, and he was looking for help to solve this problem.

When I heard his story, I was deeply saddened. I was determined to find a way to ensure that all these families received the treatment they needed and simplify reimbursement, regardless of their geographic location or their socioeconomic situation.

In the two years working with José, we sat face to face with the CEOs of Argentina’s 3 biggest insurance companies. We interviewed parents like José from all around the country. We went from brainstorming to a functional, concrete app, currently used by José, and soon to be tested by ten families, five doctors, and a small insurance firm.

For me, nothing is as fulfilling as building something from scratch and seeing its positive impact on others. But connecting with the designer who was living through the situation himself and addressing his most pressing troubles touched me deeply. The satisfaction this brings me is what I want to feel every day for the rest of my life.