

Emily Newton's Statement

(And why she's a 3x winner for the Soroptimist 2023 Live Your Dream Award)

. Congratulations Emily!

This is my second attempt at completing the LVN program. I was a CNA working at a nursing home at the time of my first acceptance. I had a 2 year old daughter at that time, I lived with her father and we had recently moved my mother in as our live-in baby sitter so that he could work and I could attend school. I was working on the weekends to try to make ends meet all while going to school full time and being a mom. I was struggling with the stress of nursing school and not seeing my daughter due to the strict studying required and working every weekend. A month into nursing school my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer and was no longer going to be able to babysit due to cancer treatments and being sick. I was already depressed from feeling so overwhelmed by all the stress of school, work, and feeling like I was missing out on the most important stages in my child life, but now I had no child care or worse was possible going to lose my mom to cancer. So I made the decision to drop from the program. I felt so defeated and like a failure that I was giving up so easily, but I felt like I had no choice. So I went back to work full time working opposite shifts of my child's father since we couldn't afford day care. Flash forward 8 years, I have a son also now and my children are 6 and 10 years old, my mother survived cancer

treatment, and my children's father and I didn't work out. I have daycare on board now only being a one person income and I feel it's time to go back to school, So I took a semester course and got a phlebotomy certification. I was able to work full time while in this program because it was only 2 nights a week for a few hours. I worked as a phlebotomist for a few years, but was still on some sort of government assistance and felt like I needed to be able to make more money. In 2021 I decided that I was ready to go back to nursing school again. My children were older, more independent and established in their routines and I felt like I could handle the stress of nursing school. This time around I made the decision to quit working all together at the start of the program so I could ensure my success. This has allowed me to maintain a 4.0 during nursing school and focus on my studies and family time equally. But quitting my job meant that I would be living off government assistance and barely getting by financially which has been a whole other set of stressors. Getting this award would help me live my dream of finishing this program and becoming a nurse. I would use this scholarship to pay for my graduation uniform and my application, NCLEX, and licensure fees post graduation. Please help my dreams come true and accept me for this award.

My career goal is to care for the residents in my community at my highest skill level through nursing. Getting accepted into the Ukiah Adult School Vocational Nursing Program is allowing me to gain the knowledge, skills and license required to become an LVN. I ultimately want to get my bachelors degree in nursing, which will take me roughly 6 years to accomplish. Becoming an LVN first will allow me to practice nursing and make better money to support my family, while chipping away at the required college courses.