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| Statement of Purpose |
| All applicants are required to submit a Statement of Purpose. Please write a statement of purpose of approximately 500 words indicating your objectives in undertaking graduate study. **Please create your document using either Times New Roman or Arial font.**You must upload this statement of purpose below. * General Statement of Purpose for all programs: Please indicate your purpose and objectives in undertaking graduate study, your special interests and plans, and your strengths and weakness in your chosen field. In reviewing applications, considerable importance is placed on the applicant's relevant experience as well as his or her interest in and commitment to advanced study and professional development.
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My goal is to pursue a career where I can express my passion for helping those who have been stripped of their voices, as well as expand my knowledge in the social service field. Before graduating with Honors from Lehman College, I took numerous pre-requisite classes, such as Social Work Practice, Social Welfare Policy and Human Behavior and The Social Environment, as well as completed my internship at ArchCare at Home where I continue to work. Archcare is a child welfare agency that helps prevent children from being separated from their families. I am able to work closely with these families to empower, plan and implement goals, address barriers and provide referral/services that would eliminate future obstacles. This is a life changing and rewarding experience. Through this work, I have deepened my interest and passion for continuing my career in Social Work. I am applying to the MSW advanced standing program because I am passionate about continuing my education in order to enhance my knowledge and subsequent skill sets as a Social Worker. I believe the Hunter MSW’s Clinical practice curriculum is the best tailored to equip me for the work needed to accomplish long-term social changes. I believe these chances can eliminate biases or judgmental behavior towards the vulnerable and oppressed individuals, families and communities.

As an early age of eight, I knew I wanted to make a difference by becoming a teacher.  I had a passion for engaging in teaching and community organizing as I would gather all the children from the neighborhood to play “school” and designate myself as the teacher. Later I babysat throughout my lifetime; but it was only when I took my first Social Work class in college that I realized my true calling lied within the field of Social Work. My passion is not solely for working with children, but rather for working with children and their families who are experiencing social injustice within the welfare system. Through living/working in the Bronx I observed injustices within the welfare system of those children and families firsthand in the area of housing, employment and education. Working with family on a personal level can be challenging at time. The family expects for the worker to fix or solve situation/obstacle. It is difficult to continuously work on the helping relationship without partnership between worker and client. This is what motivates me to continue to build upon during my MSW studies and experiences. I felt honored that I was hired at my field work agency after completion of my BSW. Working closely with families that are a part of the welfare system fueled my passion to reduce injustice. I believe advocating for social justice can break inequalities for those who rely on Social Workers. My professional goals consist of creating programs and updated workshops that will directly assist and educate families to reduce immediate risk in the household. I envision becoming an advocate of change in the home and communities. I know that I am in the right field because I am compassionate to help those who have less access to educational, mental health and financial (public benefits) resources. I believe advancing my social work education at your institution; I will expand my education to better serve the underserved families within child welfare.

School of Social Work: (500-1000 words, maximum of 5 pages) Use the following points as a guide to summarize your volunteer and professional background: My goal is 4 pages

* + **What experiences - professional, educational and organizational - led to or confirmed your interest in social work? If you considered another field before choosing social work, discuss your reason for wanting to make this change.**

I had the pleasure to intern at Archcare at Home in The Family Life Program. The Life Program is a preventive program that serves families who may be at risk of child abuse and neglect. The mission of this program is to prevent children from entering the foster care system by providing families with case management, client advocacy; appropriate referrals to partnering organizations, case work counseling and offering parenting and anger management classes. The life program services cater to families residing in South Bronx communities, specifically in districts one and four.  The Family Life program works with the New York City’s Child Welfare System in order to ensure the safety and well-being of children.

Continuing my education through Lehman College MSW Program will be a journey of discovery and advancement for me. The MSW program would not only allow me to advance theoretically and practically but having such degree would open numerous career opportunities.  I aspire to be a school counselor. With an MSW degree from Lehman College, I would be one step closer to accomplishing my goal.

* + **What are the reasons for your decision to obtain graduate social work education at this time? What are your expectations of graduate social work education? What area(s) of difficulty do you anticipate? What have you done or are doing to address the difficulties?**

Working with family on a personal level at times can create a barrier. Families are aware of the goals that are developed but tend to relapsed. When families relapse I tend to take it personally. For example I would explore what I could have said, my action or even my facial experience that would cause distrust. The advance MSW would advance techniques and engagement. Improve barriers in difficulty during case work counseling.

\*time management, micro mange working full time and a full time student.

\*Planning goals, manage time, expand my experience in the field

* **Please discuss a current issue in society related to social work and what you think are possible solutions to resolving the issue.**

One social issue that is particularly important to me is that of child sexual abuse. Child sexual abuse causes emotional and psychological harm throughout one’s life course. However, millions of children are at risk of being subjected to sexual abuse. Potential risk factors of traumatic child sexual abuse include but are not limited to increased rates of substance/alcohol abuse, depression, dropping out of high school, homelessness and sexually transmitted diseases (STD). It is not only the responsibility of the community to address this societal epidemic, but it is also societal responsibility to address the emotional struggle of the individual victims whose trauma is all too often unaddressed, silenced and ultimately turned to shame. I have witnessed firsthand how social workers play a critical role in supporting this population by providing empathy, necessary resources and services. Such as providing family and child with individual and family counseling, as well as advocating that the perpetrator receives maximum prison time.

It is my duty to continually and tirelessly work to provide support to undeserved and underrepresented individuals, families and communities in order to help them succeed in society. Advocacy on behalf of a client is just one of the many essential duties within the Social Work field. Advocacy is most important among vulnerable and or disadvantaged populations such as children who are being sexually abused. I am inspired to clients through difficult avenues such as lobbying to change policies and laws that will benefit vulnerable and oppressed populations as well as through community organizing such as organizing protest and gaining important media attention about social issues by writing to news publications. In order to reduce child sexual abuse, it is critical that child sexual abuse issues are properly addressed in policy- such as enforcing harsher consequences among child molesters.

* **What areas of social work interest you particularly?**

Continue to work in Child welfare. Effectively assist families and children through barriers to safetly close their cases.

In addition, applicants to the Advanced Standing Pathway are required to submit a Practice Example with their application. The example may illustrate practice with an individual, a family, a group, a community or an organization. Include the following content in your Practice Example from the beginning to the termination of your activity:

* Identifying data about the client system (individual, family, group, community or organization)
* A summary of the presenting issues and relevant descriptive data
* Your assessment of the practice situation
* Your practice interventions
* Your evaluation of the effectiveness of your service / interventions
* A description of any factors in the relationship between you and the client system that had impact on the service.

I was assigned to work with three families upon entering my internship with The Family Life Program. Each family dynamic is different in terms of the services and resources needed to help the family remain as one unit. For example, ACS received a State Central Register (SCR) report stating that the husband (Mr. J) aggressively punched his wife (Ms. M) in the face and- tossed rocks at the residents while living in a shelter. The oldest child, P reported that his father tossed rocks at residents and yanked mother’s hand aggressively. However P denies that Mr. J punched Ms. M in the face. P was diagnosed in Florida with sleep apnea and ADHD and yet was not adhering to medication for protocol diagnosis. Because P was witness to parent’s physical altercation and not adhering to medication protocol, the family sought help from a third party through The Family Life Program. Through working collaboratively with this family it became apparent that both Ms. M and P had been struggling with multiple undiagnosed disorders. Whereas Ms. M needed to be treated for depression, her son P also lacked sufficient treatment for sleep apnea, ADHD and Schizophrenia. Unlike P who struggled with adhering to treatment, Ms. M attended weekly therapy sessions and consistently consumed prescribed medication. During a home visit, P revealed that he was being bullied at school and was not attending therapy. I conducted a meeting with all the parties involved: P, Ms. M and the appropriate school staff. The school staff claimed that they were unaware of bullying happening against peter and stated that rather it was P who was the aggressor towards peers. P responded by saying that he saw his action as a form of self defense, with the aid of a social work facilitation, P’s family and the school staff communicated to P that it is his best interest to informed his teachers

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Throughout my home visits, I was able to continue to address P’s bullying issues with his family. P informed me that another student was assigned a Para and place in another classroom. We discussed appropriate action in the future to deal with bullying and I was able to have a discussion with P around his age since it is a critical period of his development.  P was then referred to The Jewish Board for therapy sessions and a psychiatric evaluation in order to ensure he receives updated medication. Both Ms. M and P are now adhering to treatment protocol by engaging in consistent mental health services and consuming prescribed enrolled in mental health services and medications.

NB: I somehow want to tie this information in.

My work with these families not only entails a professional work ethics of through assessment and monitoring, but also requires the use of both myriad innate and developed skill sets such as skills such as being empathy, appropriate use of self-disclosure, active listening and encouragement, strategic use of open-ended questions and the ability to develop a sustainable rapport with client. Once the relationship is established with the family, I am able to understand the nuances of family dynamics from the SCR reports.  For example, my active skills enable me to understand that Mrs. M was injured during a procedure that impaired her mobility and she expressed help with legal process of handling medical mal- practice. I cannot provide direct assistance for Ms. M, I am equipped with ability to understand the complexity and interdependent nature of Ms. M’s challenges and I provide her with appropriate referrals. I referred her free legal assistance and I provided with a hotline number to apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) as well as a number for Access-A-Ride services in order to enhance her ability to commute through alternative, accessible modes of transportation.

In addition, my empathic skills enable me to develop healthy relationships between families members with whom I work.  As a social worker, I am able to utilize the skill of empathy to set aside any judgments and personal biases in order to better understand where the client is at in their life or situation.  During my initial meeting with the family I explain my role in my work them in their home explaining that our relationships entails my documentation and assessment of the home and safety of their children.  I disclose that although this process might feel intrusive at times, I am not in their home to judge or demoralize their family.  The use of active listening and empathy are just two of the many skill sets I utilize in order to access to services and resources when working with clients.