

# My Why

Everyone has something that drives them, a reason behind their dreams, ambitions, and determination. For me, my “why” has always been my mother and my family in the Philippines. As the daughter of an immigrant mother who left everything she knew in the Philippines to build a better life for our family, I have grown up witnessing firsthand the sacrifices, resilience, and unconditional love that define her. Her journey, along with the struggles of the family members we still have living in poverty overseas, has shaped not only who I am but also the direction I want my life to take.

My mother came to the United States with hope in her heart and the courage to leave behind her home, family, and familiarity in search of greater opportunities. She sacrificed comfort, security, and precious time with loved ones so that I could have chances she never did. Watching her work tirelessly, often putting the needs of everyone else before her own, has taught me the true meaning of strength and selflessness. No matter how tired she is or how difficult life becomes, she continues to persevere with grace and determination. She has shown me that success is not handed to you, it is earned through sacrifice, hard work, and resilience.

Although I have grown up in a different environment than many of my family members in the Philippines, I have never been disconnected from their reality. Knowing that much of my family still lives in poverty has deeply impacted the way I view life. While I have had opportunities to pursue an education and dream about my future, many of them wake up every day simply focused on surviving and providing for their children. Hearing their stories and understanding their struggles has given me perspective and gratitude. It reminds me constantly that the life I have is a privilege, one built upon the sacrifices of those who came before me.

My family’s struggles motivate me every single day. When I feel overwhelmed, unmotivated, or discouraged, I think about everything my mother has endured and everything my relatives continue to face. I remind myself that giving up is not an option when so many people have sacrificed for me to stand where I do today. Their hardships fuel my desire to succeed because I know my success is not just for me, it is for them, too.

Because of my upbringing, I have chosen to pursue a career in nursing. Nursing represents everything I admire and aspire to be: compassion, service, resilience, and dedication to helping others. I want to care for people during some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives, just as others have cared for my family in times of need. I want to make a difference in people’s lives not only through medical treatment, but also through kindness, empathy, and understanding. Nursing will allow me to use my heart for others while building a stable future for myself and my family.

More than anything, I want to give back to the people who gave so much for me. I want to provide my mother with the life she deserves after all the years she spent sacrificing her own comfort to provide for me. I want to help support my family in the Philippines and ease some of

the burdens they carry every day. I want to be someone they can look at and feel proud of, proof that their sacrifices meant something and that their struggles helped create a better future.

My mother and my family are my reason for striving harder, dreaming bigger, and never settling for less than my best. They are my reminder that success is not only about personal achievement, but about honoring the people who helped you get there. My background has taught me to never take opportunities for granted and to always remain humble, hardworking, and grateful.

My mother's courage, my family's perseverance, and their sacrifices are my why. They are the reason I push myself to become the best version of who I can be. Everything I do, every goal I set, and every dream I chase is rooted in the hope that one day I can give back even a fraction of what they have given me.