

HEALING AHEAD, GUIDED BY YOU

Kirkwood
FOUNDATION

My name is Harris Ndang Chi, an international student from Cameroon and the youngest of seven siblings. I was born and raised in Douala, the economic capital of Cameroon. Despite the designation of our city, my family lived modestly in a small house with a small shop that sustained us. Raised primarily by my mother due to my father's illness and my siblings living elsewhere, I successfully completed my primary, secondary, and high school education at a nearby school, balancing academics with helping at home.

Two years before completing high school, my father passed away, significantly impacting our family's stability. Despite these challenges, I excelled academically and earned excellent grades. Encouraged by my elder brother, a former student at Kirkwood Community College, I applied and was accepted to the college. After overcoming initial visa challenges, my mother and I arrived safely in the United States.

My ultimate goal is to become a surgeon, beginning with a major in Nursing at Kirkwood to gain essential medical experience. Additionally, I am actively involved in the Kirkwood Black Student Union, which has helped me integrate into campus life.

To support my education and assist my family, I secured a part-time job as a dinner host at the Class Act Restaurant in the Kirkwood Hotel. As an international student, my work hours are restricted, but this scholarship has alleviated financial pressure significantly. **Winning this scholarship was initially unbelievable; confirming its authenticity was a moment of immense gratitude.**

The impact of this scholarship extends beyond financial relief; it empowers me to invest in educational materials and save for future medical school expenses, reducing my reliance on student loans. I am committed to maintaining the high standards set by this scholarship, pursuing my Nursing degree at Kirkwood before transferring to a university for my Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Ultimately, I plan to apply to medical school, fueled by my aspiration to become a top surgeon in the United States.

Thank you for believing in me and investing in my future.

- Harris Ndang Chi, Nursing

