

Portland Community College: Sylvania Campus

The ESOL Ambassador



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The ESOL Ambassador

The ESOL Ambassador is a quarterly publication of the Sylvania ESOL Department. Essays are written by students at all levels of the program and submitted for publication by ESOL instructors.

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who contributed
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ESOL Level 1 & 2 Students Write About Important People

Level 1

My Brother

His name is Asif. He is my sweet brother. He gets up early in the morning. He goes for morning walk every day. He eats breakfast at 8am. He takes shower every Friday. He has two daughters, He does not like to eat vegetables. He does his work at home. He support his family. He likes to eat meat.

He is from Pakistan. He likes to live in USA. He offers his prayers five times a day. He likes to help the poor people. He eats dinner late at night. He works late at night. He does not like to watch TV but sometimes he watches kid's shows with his children. I love my brother so much.

Written by: Babar Mahmood



Level 2

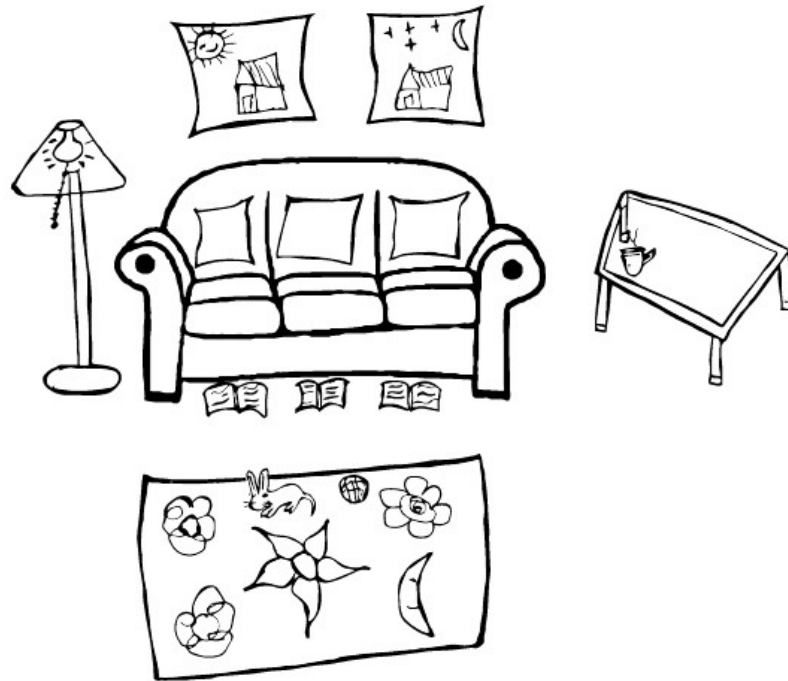
My Sister

Her name is Nagem. She is my sister. She lives in Baghdad. She doesn't live in Portland. She is short and beautiful. She is married. She has two sons their name are Ramen and Issa. Ramen is 13 years old and Issa is 8 years old. Her sons are students. She is a teacher. She lives near my mother. She loves my mother so much. She speaks with me once a week because she is busy. She is always going to my mother. She is outgoing and calm and intelligent and kind and friendly. She is not selfish and messy and shy. She goes with her family to the park once a week. She makes food every day. She likes to watch TV. She loves her sons and her husband. She takes the bus from her home to the school because she doesn't have a car. She likes summer. She doesn't like winter. She doesn't wake up early on Fridays.

Written by: Hamazah Al Rubaie



An ESOL Level 2 Student Draws and Describes a Scene



There are three pillows on the sofa. There are two pictures over the sofa. There is a lamp on the floor. There are three books under the sofa. There is a table next to the sofa. There is a cup of coffee on the table. There is a cat with long ears on the carpet. There is a carpet in front of the sofa.

Written by: Pablo Zavala

ESOL Level 2 Students Describe Their Hometowns and Their Current Neighborhoods

My Hometown

My town's name is Zongolica. It's a tourist place because it has river, mountains and culture. The most visited river is that of Huixtla because of its huge waterfall. It is a region of high mountains and coffee plantations. Its culture is very beautiful for its regional costumes, crafts and folklore. Zongolica has many traditions. It is ideal for hiking and rappelling. I liked to see the sunrise and the smell of the earth when the rain starts. My town is cheerful, warm and picturesque.

Written by: Elizabeth Hernandez

My Neighborhood

My neighborhood is in Tigard. There are many Hispanic people. On Highway 99 there are many stores and Mexican restaurants. Sometimes I go with my family to El Guajillo Mexican Restaurant that is across from my apartment. Near to my house there is a car wash. My husband likes to clean his car in the car wash two times a month. I like my neighborhood because there are many stores nearby for shopping. My favorite store is H-Mart because the groceries are cheap.

Written by: Elizabeth Hernandez



My Neighborhood in Mexico

I'm from Mexico. I lived in Ecatepec in a small house. There were two bedrooms and one bathroom. There was a kitchen, dining room and small living room. Near me there was a bakery – at 7:00 pm it smelled good! I said, “Mmm, smell the fresh bread.” Everyday there was a market on wheels. I went and bought fruits, vegetables, fish and meat. The neighborhood is noisy because the neighbors listened to their music very loud.

When I lived in Mexico, I felt sad and scared because my neighborhood was dangerous. At night there were assaults on people, car thefts, and child kidnappings. We could no longer walk peacefully through the neighborhood. I don't know if one day I will change my city again. Now I live here in Oregon with my family, and I'm very happy this country is a beautiful, safe place.

Written by: Hilda Gastaldi Alatorre

My Family

I live in an apartment with my husband, daughter and her family. My husband works in construction. He works Monday to Friday. He gets up at 5:30 and leaves at 6:00 am. My son-in-law works in a factory in Tualatin. He leaves at 5:45 am. My daughter has two jobs. The first starts at 4:30 am, so she gets up at 4:00 and she leaves at 4:15 am. She comes back at 6:30 and rests a little. She gets up again at 7:45, wakes up her daughter, and she makes two lunches. I get up at 5:30 am to start my day. I finish at 9:30 pm. My family is small and very crazy busy, but I love them.

Written by: Hilda Gastaldi Alatorre

My Neighborhoods

My neighborhood in El Salvador was a very beautiful place. It was a very quiet place in a place where people were friendly and very kind. I lived with my grandparents. I was very happy in my neighborhood with my friends and my family. We lived in a big house in a neighborhood where all our family lived.

Written by: Cesar Menjivar

Now I live in a very convenient neighborhood. Near where I live there are many people from Mexico. There is a car wash, a gas station, and a pizzeria. My neighborhood is friendly. We like to go to a Mexican restaurant that is close to where we live. I like my neighborhood.

Written by: Cesar Menjivar

Special Moments of My Family in Colombia

My family in Colombia is big. I have six sisters. My parents are very nice. My father cooked for the special celebrations. My mother talked about the different adventures or stories of her life in the country. After, all played different games and danced “salsa”, “merengue”, “cumbia” and drank beer. My daughter and nephews continue with these traditions. These are happy moments in my family.

Written by: Alicia Molina

My Neighborhood

I live in Lake Oswego. I live in a house near the park. There is a library and a supermarket. I like to go to the library on my day off, because here I find videos to practice English. Many people like to run or walk. I’m new in my neighborhood, so I do not know the people. There are many restaurants and places near the lake. My husband and I like dinner in a Thai restaurant. In summer, there are people in the lake, enjoying the sun.

Written by: Alicia Molina

ESOL Level 3 Students Write Guided Poems

In a guided poem, students look at someone else's poem as an example. Then they use that poem as a guide to write their own original poems.



To My Sweet Wife

How do I love you? Let me count the ways.

I love you because you made my beautiful life.

I love you because whenever I plan you always are fully supporting me.

I love you because you have a good heart and beautiful face and body.

I love you because you are everything to my whole life.

I tattooed your name on my hand, and you also wrote my name on your hand too.

We love forever and ever.

Written by: Tenzin Sangpo

To My Daughter

How do I love you? Let me count the ways.

I love you when I get up early and I see you.

I love you because you make my day happy and interesting.

I love you because you are my life.

I love you as much as the sun, the sky, and fresh air.

I give you what I have.

Written by: Nataliya Romanyshyn

To Coffee

How do I love you? Let me count the ways.

I love you because you never disappoint me, and you make me happy every day.

I love you more than other drinks.

I love you so much. You make me happy.

I love you so much. You are like my best friend.



Written by: Magnolio Jeronimo Lopez

To a Flower

How do I love you? Let me count the ways.

I love you when I'm depressed and hard.

I love you because you heal my heart and make me excited.

I love you because you are so beautiful.

I love you more than TV or exercise.

Written by: Vanessa Jang

To My Husband

I love you more than the galaxy.

I love you so much as the sand.

I love you because you are my life.

I love you because you are everything to me.

Written by: Suchada Vang



ESOL Level 3 Students Write About Their ESOL Class

I come to PCC to learn English at night. I am a level 3 student. My ESOL class is three days per week at PCC, Sylvania in Portland. On Mondays, my teacher usually starts with a new unit. On Wednesdays, she teaches new vocabulary. Thursdays, we have a computer class, and other activities. My teacher's name is Banu and she is from Turkey. In the classroom there are 25 students and some of them are from different countries. Everyone is very friendly. In conclusion, this class provides a lot of information to learn a new language and gives us opportunity to meet international people.

Written by: Fermin Hernandez

My ESOL class is important for me. If I learn English, it will be easier to find a better job. Also, I can talk in English with different people. In my ESOL class, we practice a lot. We write, listen, learn grammar and communicate with each other. Finally, ESOL class is for people who want to learn English and use it in their lives and at work.

Written by: Inocentes M. Santos

My ESOL class has a lot of good things. One of them is we have a good teacher and volunteers. We are always working as a team. Most of the time we learn how to write words, to speak correctly, and read for comprehension and to learn new vocabulary. Every night we have homework. In conclusion, we are always happy with our ESOL class.

Written by: Gladys Ortiz



ESOL Level 4

Short Sand Beach

I like the Oregon coast very much, especially, the one place which is called Short Sand Beach. It looks like a small bay surrounded by rocky hills with evergreen trees. They are on the three sides of the beach; from the left, from the right and behind you. Between the hills, there is a flat shore with light yellow sand. To the front, you can see only the blue sky and the white, light blue turquoise and deep blue ocean. I love the fresh smell of the ocean and coniferous trees. Also I love the sound when the waves breaks and rolls back. It's always calming and relaxing, but sometimes the ocean is very noisy. It happens in the storm. I don't like the storm. There are three cold streams that run from the hills and flow into the ocean. One of them is on the left hill. The second one is on the right hill and become a waterfall which is called Blumenthal Falls. The third goes through the center of the beach. It's a beautiful place and you can spend your time in many ways. Some people come here for a picnic with their family, and someone can surf or sunbathe. I like to paint here, walk along the beach, take a picture and listen the music. My husband always is surfs. I love this wonderful place, and I like to spend my time there.

Written by: Alana Shepeleva



ESOL Level 5

Lincoln City

Lincoln City is one of my favorite cities to visit in Oregon for three reasons. First of all, Lincoln City is not far from my house and is very beautiful. Every year, my family always spends about two hours to pull trailers to go camping there. We can park the cars and the trailers in a trailer park in a mountainous campground which is near a river. It is very quiet there. I can only hear birds singing. Second, this is one of the best places to get close to nature. It is close to a river here, and some boats are on the river. My father can go fishing in the boat in the daytime, and I can help my mother to cook a meal by the river. Sometimes we drive out of the mountains to buy something we need. My husband and I always build a campfire in the evening. Then my family sits in a circle to talk about some interesting things. We enjoy this life-style. Finally, we can watch the ocean here. We sometimes make an elaborate picnic on the beach. We prepare salad, candies, pasta, and some meat at home in advance. Then we gather around on the beach and watch the beautiful view of the ocean. Even though the weather is a little cold, we are excited. There is a seafood restaurant named Mo's near the beach I like. We go to this restaurant every time. We will be certain to choose a big table by the window. While we eat, we can watch children playing with their parents in the ocean. To summarize, though there are several beaches in Oregon, I prefer Lincoln City.

Written by: Na Zhao-Exstrom



ESOL Level 5 Students Write About Special People

Mrs. Marie

My dear friend Marie Bold, whom I found on a tutor search site on the Web, teaches me three things. The first one is, of course, English speaking and listening. Whenever I speak and make mistakes, she corrects these mistakes kindly every time. She also writes correct sentences in my notebook. The expressions that she writes are quite easy to understand, so I can review them later. Second, she teaches me a lot about American culture. For example, we sometimes talk about Oregon, its beautiful nature and many interesting events in the area. All these stories are very helpful for me. Sometimes we go out and visit cafes and restaurants which only local people know. Thanks to her, I can take other friends there. As most of my friends are not American, they enjoy spending time in these places. She sometimes invites my husband and me to her home parties. For example, her Thanksgiving party is a precious experience for us. Marie served a meal that we have never tried in Japan, including food like stuffing, and she taught us the background of Thanksgiving holiday. Third, she teaches me how to communicate with people in the United States. It is difficult to communicate smoothly with foreigners. However, she teaches me about communication with others because she had learned the cultural difference between America and Japan. To sum up, Marie is a comprehensive teacher and a caring friend who teaches not only English but also a lot about how to live happily in the United States.

Written by: Madoka Miyoshi

Someone Special

The person who I interviewed is so special for me. Her name is Melissa, and she is from Oregon. We met 3 years ago in Spain. We lived together for two years in Spain, and now, we are living in Oregon. One of her ultimate dreams is to travel around the world and learn about all kinds of culture that there are in the world. For her, to treat your partner with respect, to always be honest and to solve the problems that the couple could have and not leave them stored in yourself are the keys for a good relationship. Her priorities are her life are her family, friends, food, her dog, and me. During her free time, she loves to cook and relax by watching a TV series with a glass of wine next to her. On the other hand, an interesting fact is that while she is cooking, nobody should be around to her because for her, it is a time where she is relaxing. So, don't ask her if she needs help if you don't want to hear a resounding "NO". In short, the person who I interviewed is my girlfriend, and that is why Melissa is so special for me.

Written by: Said Boussaid



Super Dad

My father-in-law is a very capable old man. We call him “Super Dad” because he can solve all our problems. He can repair motorcycles, appliances, and furniture. When he was married to my mother-in-law, he made all the furniture they needed by hand. He also can do anything a woman can do. He can knit, sew, and use a sewing machine. He even made a dress for my mother-in-law and made a pair of shoes for my baby. The most important thing is that he is a very good cook, and he can cook all kinds of traditional Chinese food. He can make mooncake with a whole yolk inside. It is the most delicious mooncake I have ever eaten. My father-in-law is very old now, but he still enjoys doing these things for us, and every time he surprises us, he says proudly, “Call me super dad!” He wants everyone in the family to be happy. He even learnt Photoshop when he was 84 years old. If you don’t smile when you take a photo, he must change your face into a big smile. My father-in-law is a lovely old man. I love my super dad.



Written by: Julie Jia

ESOL Level 6 Students Write Advice Letters

Advice for Mother

I know you are worried about me. You can’t get nervous. You should think about yourself, and about your health. You had better walk every day, I know you have had a bad period in your life after my father’s death. You should not be alone. You have six grandchildren and you can help them. You have to take care of yourself and you should not forget we love you.

Written by: Pavel Alkaev



My little Sister

Little sister, it’s close to your last day of high school and you will start the college. You should be brave because you are going to live without our parents. You have to make your own decisions. You may have new friends but you should choose disciplined people, good students. You can find people who could inspire you to be a better person. You must focus your mind on school, this is your opportunity to have a better future. You must be the best student, with the best grades. You ought to go for it and make our parents proud of you.

Written by: Yuritza Sanoval

My Younger Brother

When you become a big brother everything is different because you become the father of your brother. You should be a mentor and supportive of him. Before I came to the U.S, I gave my little brother some advice. I told him that he should take care of mom and dad because they will support you in your failure and success. You have to study and work hard and you have to fight for your dreams, because it will not be easy. Also you must be responsible about your action and think how to achieve what you want to be in your future. You can have fun with your friends and family, but do not forget about your goals and your dreams.

Written by: Ahmed Alqahtani

For My Friend

I have a friend that we have known for 10 years. We have known each other since we were in elementary school, and we have been very close friends until now. Sometimes she makes me feel uncomfortable, so I want to give her some opinions. When we hang out and we go to a restaurant, she always focuses on her cellphone, and she does not answer when I talk to her. I think she ought to put down her cellphone, and should not focus on it frequently. If you love your cellphone so much, you can stay at home and play with it all day. Furthermore , she copies my homework every times when we were in high school I do not care about that, but she had better do homework by herself, and she can't copy every time because that will not improve her study. She can ask me question if she does not understand, or she could ask the teacher. The last opinion is about taking. She always talks loudly even when we are in the library, and I remind her that your voice is too loud, but she doesn't lower her voice. I think she shouldn't talk loudly, she should be quit in some public places, such as the library or public transportation because there is not just only her. I hope she can correct these bad habits, and I hope these opinion will help her to be more polite person.

Written by: Jerry Wang



ESOL Level 7

A Translated Book That No One Wants to Read

There is an English proverb which says, “Fake it until you make it.” However, I am not sure if it is always applicable. The main editor Karma, three other people, and I worked as the Sambhota Translation Team in Sichuan Publish House for a long time. Our responsibility was to edit Tibetan books, translate materials from Tibetan to Chinese, and vice versa. However, we made a mistake in a special translation project because of our blind confidence.

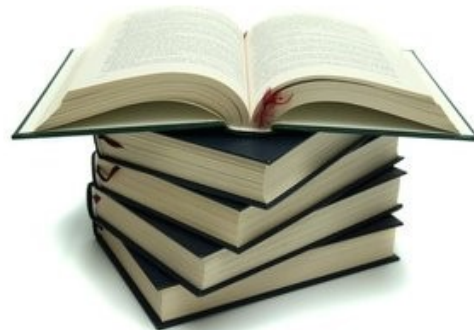
In 2016, we received the translation project of The Autobiography of Khenpo Jamyang, who is a philanthropist and a huge supporter of our nonprofit charity projects. The autobiography required not only translation from Chinese to Tibetan but also from Chinese to English. Usually we rejected this kind of request, but because of various reasons we had to handle this autobiography translation.

The only person who had a little knowledge about English in our team was me. Therefore, our main editor told me to handle this English translation task. At first, I found a Chinese translation company to do the English translation, but when the due date was approaching, I realized they had used Google Translation and then made corrections in the first chapter and the last chapter. Karma encouraged and convinced me to make the corrections. With very limited English language skills, I made some so-called improvements.

After we published the English autobiography, I took a hard copy and started to read. Due to problems concerning ungrammatical, incoherent, mechanical and obscure effects of translation, especially culture related phrases such as Tibetan aphorisms, I could not continue two pages even though it was edited by me. With a mixed feeling of shame, guilt and regret I put the book aside.

From that time on, I have longed for further education in English, to share Tibetan philosophy and Himalayan mind training methods with the world. Maybe the attitude of fake it until you make it is a good thing if we use it as a mental motivation, but we should never apply it in a task when we do not have the ability to complete it. Maybe it was a blessing in disguise. The regret of wasting thousands of books and organization’s money, and the loss of our reputation have driven me to continue my education.

Written by: Kent Nonamegiven



ESOL Level 7

Bad Behavior, the Road to a Grim Future in Bogotá

In a community, people's behavior usually determines how a place and its inhabitants are thought of. Additionally, when those behaviors have a negative component, they also could bring social issues such as lack of belonging, lack of respect for others, and encourage bad examples for present and new generations. Bogotá, Colombia's capital, is a multicultural, diverse, progressive, inclusive, and cosmopolitan city. However, some people's bad behavior diminishes it. Property damage, intolerance and public imprudence are three significant causes that can explain the consequences of encouraging and spreading bad acts in society.

First of all, in Bogotá, it is common to witness cases of intentional public property damage. There are many historic and representative monuments which have been partially or completely covered in graffiti, broken or vandalized by people who don't care about the city's cultural heritage and its conservation. A typical example of this is The Monument to the Flags of America's Nations that, after 14 years, began its restoration last year. In other examples, there are citizens who trash our streets with waste, cigarette butts or chewing gum, negatively impacting the city's appearance and blocking the sewage system.

As a result, the city's image tends to be seriously affected in an unfavorable way. People who visit Bogotá may refuse to come back and/or speak poorly and unfairly about its infrastructure and its population, because many citizens do not care about their city and enjoy destroying it. In general terms, it is very expensive to restore each damaged or destroyed sculpture and monument because that is a job that demands a lot of time, money and requires special techniques. In the case of a blocked sewage system, this can produce structural erosion which can lead to collapse and flooding of the streets. Littering attracts many homeless people which contributes to additional mess. Additionally, removing chewing gum from the ground is expensive, and generates negative ecological, biological and aesthetic impacts.

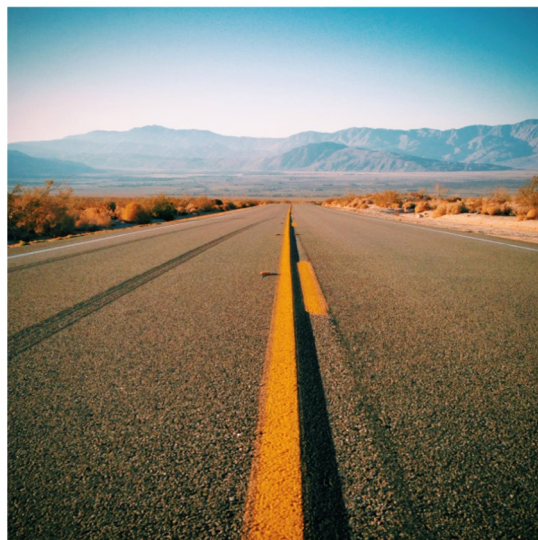
In another context, in Bogotá, there is significant evidence of an impolite and insensitive community in public spaces. For example, in public transportation, people can be rude and not let others exit before they attempt to enter; they sometimes won't offer their seat to those who need it; or they will just cut the line and even try avoiding paying the fare. On the streets, one can sometimes see other bad habits such as people urinating or spitting wherever and whenever they want. They may sneeze without covering their mouths. Altogether, each of these intolerable behaviors contributes to minimizing and eliminating the respect towards other members of the community, creating indifference and social barriers. The foundation of a society is tolerance and coexistence, and when bad behaviors affect coexistence, the path to imbalance begins. Furthermore, with respect to cases of public urination, spitting, or throwing trash on the ground, each may contribute to bad odors and can potentially spread infections.

On the other hand, according to Caracol Radio, Bogotá had 45 thousand traffic infractions in 2018. Through this information it's easy to infer the lack of responsibility of pedestrians on the streets daily and its effects. For example, some people cross the street when the light is red, or they skip using pedestrian bridges because they consider it a faster way to arrive at their destination. Also, this same situation can be witnessed in people riding their bikes in and out of traffic without using any kind of protection, putting their lives in danger and putting others at risk.

The origin of each bad behavior or imprudence on the streets is pretty complex. In some cases they could come from a serious problem, such as the lack of education, from absence of values, or simply from people's bad intentions. Ignorance is also a factor; people don't recognize the implications of their actions. Respecting the traffic signals, for both pedestrians and drivers is the best way to reduce accidents. Doing the opposite is synonymous with risk, unsafe streets and death.

In Bogotá, the majority of the people are really friendly, smart, hardworking and well educated; unfortunately, it only takes a few bad people to give our city a bad reputation. This essay is intended to demonstrate this fact and to show that behaviors have powerful repercussions, and that through these bad behaviors, we all lose. Bad acts such as property damage, intolerable behavior and public imprudence are bad seeds sown in people's minds. If those seeds sprout in our children, we will be driving our world down a road where nothing is important, a place where we'll value our own needs over the collective benefit of all. Before acting, we should think honestly about all the consequences of each word, thought or action. What is the example that we are leaving our children and the next generations? Good behavior can inspire a life, while bad behavior could darken the community's fate.

Written by: Ronald Alexander Rodríguez Genovesi



ESOL Level 8

From a River of Blood to the Gold Stamp

It was the winter of '99, the middle month of the coldest season in Alexandria village when I saw for the first time a circular piece of metal with an unusual stamp on my grandma's table. After 51 years under Russian communism occupation, every person in the country could read and write the Cyrillic alphabet, so I instantly read its inscription "Medal for Courage and Valor- the URSS." From all these words, I knew only the word "courage," but what kind of courage, what made my grandma so special? At that moment, I didn't realize its value, story, and effect on my destiny.

With the start of World War II in 1939, my grandma volunteered for the Red Cross in a medical reserve battalion, taking part in the Battle of Stalingrad. Her prime duties were not only organizing triage, aid, and dressing stations, but she also evacuated wounded soldiers from the front. In the winter of the war period, plenty of soldiers died from "gangrene" of the hands or feet, so specialists, such as Grandma, were sent to the front. The front was a powerful drama of hundreds of men lying on their backs in the snow with outstretched hands, and soldiers from the red cross dying in their blood. Her mind was reeling, and the weapon was shaking in her hands when the Nazi bomb exploded near her. Before my Grandma lost her leg, she had brought 17 soldiers out of the firing line by crawling and dragging their bodies into the safe trench. Although she was wounded, she carried on bandaging and helping the wounded until the end of the war. My grandma used to say, "the soldiers were saved by vodka and a salve from fish fat."

Through her experience as a veteran of the war, I have learned the essence of suffering; the new world needs heroes, and my goal is to be part of this. I realize my dream of becoming a doctor is a major battle to achieve, so PCC constitutes the first place to develop my plan of becoming another type of hero.

Written by: Adriana Reaboi



