

## **Promising Pathways Scholarship for Single Parents**

My life fundamentally changed in May 2024 with the premature birth of my daughter, Herrera Mae Frazier. My complicated five-day labor, ending with surgery and post-delivery hospitalization, marked the happiest and scariest moments of my life. Known affectionately as “Honey,” she transcended my spirit and opened my heart in unfathomable ways. Her love is now the driving force behind my academic pursuits.

The first year of motherhood was filled with milestones, wet kisses, and laughter, cementing the feeling that I had won the greatest prize. Yet, this joy was shadowed by poverty, postpartum depression, and the stress of providing financial stability as a sole parent with no co-parenting support. My previous career paths offered little financial security, leaving me overwhelmed by the pressure to keep my newly formed family of two afloat. It was a constant struggle: having the greatest blessing but lacking the means to provide basic security.

Returning to work so soon after delivery, relying on daycare, and sacrificing nights I would rather spend watching Honey sleep, weighed heavily on me. I took extra shifts wherever I could provide, often working long hours in physically and emotionally taxing environments. One late-night shift working alone at a gas station crystallized my need for a radical change. It was a chaotic evening in the pouring rain, and after managing a public disturbance, I was left cleaning the trashed store.

Around 10 PM, a seemingly innocent man entered, quickly becoming aggressive and attempting a robbery. Taller than me, with large hands reaching for the register, he barked harsh demands. In that moment of intense threat, I didn't panic. My instinct, honed by months of prioritizing my daughter's safety, took over. I anticipated his move toward a lone bottle of liquor and, with a surge of grit, snatched it from his reach. The distraction was enough for him to stagger and shout one last obscenity before I called the police. The dispatcher's response—that an officer would only respond "when one becomes available." I felt so vulnerable and just couldn't wait to get home.

I walked home in the cold rain at 2 AM after working an over 12-hour shift, but I was not defeated; I was resolved. The next day, I enrolled in college. I realized my deepest purpose is rooted in protecting my family and community, and the only path to achieve that purpose was through education and a career of true impact.

I am now enrolled full-time in the B.A. Criminology program, pursuing a minor in Public Service at the University of New Mexico. I am especially passionate about working with marginalized women and children. To gain specialized skills in protecting vulnerable populations, I plan to enroll next year in the McAfee Certified Human Trafficking Investigator program, which requires additional financial support. My post-graduate goal is to attend graduate school and work in law enforcement and crime intelligence. I have dedicated all my savings and federal grants to bravely return to higher education, dreaming of a career that will adequately

provide for my daughter and allow me to be a strong leader and role model. I finished my first semester strong however I am now relying on my faith to continue this vital path. Thank you for your consideration; your generosity would directly secure my daughter's future and enable me to serve a community that is desperate for fierce protectors. Sincerely, Breanna Marie Frazier