



Damien Dunbar Rutherford

Provider (Paraprofessional)

I grew up in what most would consider a dysfunctional household. My father was an alcoholic; he struggled to stay out of rehab and the local jails. Mom couldn't provide for her children as she suffered with a drug addiction. Most of what I remember from my young childhood consisted of either fighting or police visits. It was a difficult time in my life and continued into my pre-teen years.

This neglect would eventually lead to a placement in the foster care system. During this time, I had my first experiences with social work and therapists. One issue that persisted throughout was the lack of consistency, something I really needed at the time. I can also vividly remember how one of my social workers treated me. She made me feel like an object, an obstacle standing between her and the next paycheck. I never want anyone to feel the way I felt.

I have known for a while that I have wanted to help people. Some do this kind of work as a job, but I truly believe this is my calling. I am currently an undergrad in UW-Stout's Psychology degree. After I graduate I hope to pursue a master's degree in a counseling field. While I finish up my schooling, I believe it is necessary to gather the proper work experience to excel. It is a blessing that I can help people at the same time.

I enjoy a variety of different hobbies. For as long as I can remember, nature has been a favorite of mine. I also like nearly every single sport I can think of. As of recently, weightlifting and card games have been my favorites. I am always open to new things!

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