Reese M.

**Caring for the elderly in their homes and nursing homes**

*River Ridge Middle School*

Have you ever been asked what you want to be when you grow up? Well, I have been asked that question many times. It is crazy, but that answer has changed every time. It has gone from something crazy to something more reasonable.

When I grow up I would like to be a personal care aide. My Great Grandma Cooley inspires me to do this because when she was in a nursing home, she always wanted to be in her own home. Just like my Great Grandma Cooley, I think people would want to be in the comfort of their own home, especially when they aren’t feeling the best. Other people may feel more comfortable and benefit from being in a nursing home.

I think that if I would be a personal care aide, I could help the elderly and handicapped by being a friend to them, helping them around the house, getting them out of the house, and helping them run errands around town. If I become a personal care aide I would have to help with difficult people and keep them company, some other parts of the job I would have to do is help people get ready for the day, clean up their homes, and give them rides to places. The parts of the job that I am most excited to do are doing crafts with them, having fun with people, and getting to know them better. These are all pretty challenging parts of the job, but I think I could handle them, which would make being a personal care aide very fun and exciting.

To become a personal care aide, I would have to go to college for two years, but I think I could handle that. I think college would be interesting and fun because I could meet some other people who want to be the same thing as me.  After I graduate high school, I want to go to college, I would like to go to University of Wisconsin Whitewater, and while I am there I want to work at a nursing home. I would like to work somewhere because I could earn some money to buy a car, so I could drive to work, and I would also like to buy a house to live in, but it is mostly about getting experience of working with the elderly and handicapped.

Doing this job is not just about the money, it is mainly about helping the elderly and handicapped, when they are nearing the end of their life. I want to help people and make them feel like they are with their best friend when they are with me. I want them to feel comfortable with me, open up to me, and feel like they can talk to me about anything, and when I am working with patients I must be patient, respectful, supportive, and most of all compassionate. I love this job, and wish to be this when I grow up.