

Pediatrics in Brevard Scholarship Essay

I suffered a traumatic brain injury after a car accident in 2021. My life changed more than I could have ever expected.

I will say, however, I am so incredibly blessed that things turned out the way they did, and I am alive and well. Things could have gone much worse. I believe that without Pediatrics in Brevard, things would have turned out differently.

Immediately after the crash, I did my best to heal properly and take care of myself. But for an unknown reason, I developed excruciating recurring headaches. Months passed, and I waited for these headaches to go away. We had doctors in Orlando who were assisting us after my incident. I had an MRI and brain scans done to see if the headaches came from a neurological problem. No conclusions. After heading over to Pediatrics in Brevard for a routine checkup, I told my doctor all about my situation. She asked questions, took notes, and seemed to care about all our concerns. This Doctor was the amazing Shannon McGinley.

I needed guidance and someone who genuinely cared about what I was going through. Dr. McGinley was that person. She listened. She eventually had me test a new theory. She connected me to amazing physical therapists who played a huge role in my recovery. My first physical therapist in Orlando tested my neck. It was time to test if it had been affected by the accident. We discovered that my neck was the problem. I learned that holding pressure points and strengthening my neck muscles was how I could get rid of my headaches.

After months of physical therapy, I have made big improvements. With help, I have discovered how to lessen the frequency of my headaches and manage them. It is a long process of strengthening and recovering physically and mentally for me, but I am so thankful to Dr. McGinley for her help through it all.

This incident was a big deal in my life, but at pediatrics in Brevard, they even care about the small incidents. From checkups to colds, pediatrics in Brevard has guided my family through all our small worries.

As I get older and prepare to move on from pediatric care, I am glad I have a way to express my gratitude to my Pediatrics in Brevard heroes (especially Dr. McGinley). You all do so much more than you know. Helping all those kids seriously changes the world. You show you care for each kid, and we remember that. I am one of many patients and still feel like I was listened to during each visit. I am about to be 18, heading off to college in 5 months, and I cannot believe I have to leave all my caring doctors behind. I'm so grateful for the

people who have taken care of me and truly wanted me to feel better. I hope to find that same kind of care wherever I go next. Thank you all!