

The Fourth of Twelve 2016 Steinbeck Scholarship Recipients



My name is Andrea Heiney and I'm a Junior at Colorado Mesa University this year taking nursing courses. I grew up in Guinea. We lived in Ivory Coast when I was young, in preparation for work in Guinea which was a new field for the LCMS at the time. We moved to Gueckedou in Guinea when I was 3. My parents worked with the Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees to start the Guinean church. It is now an indigenous Guinean church run by Guinean leaders. In 2000 we had to leave when war came to Gueckedou. We lived a short time in Conakry, then in Kissidougou while we waited for things to settle down. We lived in three different houses in Kissidougou area before we had to relocate back to the US when my brother was having trouble. We were in the US for 3 years (Kansas) before returning to Conakry in 2003. We



lived in Conakry for 4 years. During that time I moved to Senegal to attend Dakar Academy for my high school years. I graduated in 2012 and returned to the US. Meanwhile my parents moved to Siguiro to work among the Maninka people who are almost 100% Muslim. I took a year off of school to work and adjust to life in the US, then started my schooling at Colorado Mesa.

Dear members of LWML,

Thank you all so much for the support that you have donated to my schooling this semester; it is such a blessing to me. I have been studying nursing at Colorado Mesa University for the past 3 years and have 1 and a half years left to complete. I decided to go into nursing because in high school I had the opportunity to go do an outreach program with my school. On outreach our school would go to a remote village and provide various support for the people in that village. Some people would dig the foundation for a church, some would do VBS and work with the children and others would do medical crew and provide basic healthcare to the people. I was on the VBS crew my first few years of high school but decided to give medical crew a try. It was during this experience that I realized how I could impact people's lives through medical work. We had one woman who began to cry and tell us how no one had ever loved her and treated her with the kind of care we did. We were able to share Jesus with this woman in a way that impacted her both spiritually and physically. Since then, I have been studying nursing in Grand Junction. I have been able to get involved with a campus ministry at my college, a small group with my church and have been able to sing with an outreach program that my church does. These past three years in college have really grown me and taught me the importance of living out Jesus' commission no matter where I am in life. While I do not pretend to know the exact path I will take in the future, I am fairly confident that God is guiding me toward overseas missions. I am so excited to see the different paths that God is going to take me on in these next couple of years. Again thank you so much for your support, it means so much to me that you would give of yourselves in that way in order to help me through this time in my life!

Andrea Heiney

Dear ladies of the Human Care Committee and all the ladies of the LWML,

Tim and I just wanted to express our deepest thanks to you for your continued support for our children as they make their way through college. This has been such a huge help for us through the years. We've had kids in college now for 14 years and are finally looking toward the end in another year or so! You all have helped through many of those years, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Missionary children (MKs) are very special people and unfortunately are not often recognized in our church body, so this has been no small thing for us.

We're so proud of our Andrea. When she first mentioned the possibility of going into nursing we were shocked. Andrea grew up shier than shy. Tim often jokes that she was attached to one of our legs until she went to boarding school. In fact we weren't sure she would make it there, and we ended up staying in Dakar that first couple of weeks to make sure she did OK. After day 1 we hardly saw her again! It was truly like a butterfly coming out of her cocoon. Since then she has grown and matured into a beautiful young lady that loves her Lord and wants to serve Him by serving others. Thank you so much for helping us make that happen.

I've asked her to write to you as well. She's deep into "rotations" for her clinicals this semester, but you should be hearing. Meanwhile Tim and I wanted to just make sure to add our gratitude for all you are doing for those special MKs of our church!

Blessings! Tim and Beth Heiney, Global Lutheran Outreach Guinea, West Africa