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### MLN 2010 Scholarship Essay

My most memorable client that I have cared for was a child I nurtured during my pediatrics rotation. The little boy was hospitalized for phantom leg pains that had been present for nine months. Though he could walk, play, and jump normally, he had constant pain in his lower leg. From reading through his medical record, I discovered the doctors had not yet determined the source or cause of his pain. When I met this child, he had been in the hospital for one day prior to my caring for him. He seemed very saddened and obtunded about being restricted while in the hospital. He wanted to go to school and play with his friends, not be trapped inside the confines of the hospital. When I came into his room to care for him, he was very shy and reserved. His mother was reading quietly to him, and she explained his hesitation to strangers. This child had many tests done in his short stay at the hospital and talked to numerous physicians. Though the mother was very attentive to her son's needs, she expressed concerns to me about not being able to be with him the following day due to work. Knowing that my clinical rotation had me caring for him the next day, I told the mother and child I would be sure to return the following day to care for him. He seemed reassured by knowing I would be there, and opened up to me while I cared for him for the rest of the day.

The following day when I returned to the hospital for my clinical rotation, the little boy was ecstatic that I kept true to my word. He had spent the morning without the presence of his mother, and only his busy nurse checking on him. During that rotation, I was able to give him my full attention. He talked non-stop for our entire time together. We played continuously, watched television, and took care of his needs. I knew that my presence made a difference in the care of this child. Even something so small as being present in the moment with my patient was

profound for me. I never really saw myself as a nurse until that patient. Before I was a student going through the motions of a nurse. With this patient, I finally realized that nursing comes from within. It is more than just essentials of daily living and passing medications. My littlest patient taught me that being a good nurse was giving of my self to my patients.