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MS3

There is a railroad in Alice, Texas, that used to split the town between the families of Mexican migrant workers and the families of the business owners who hired the laborers. My grandmother would look across the tracks at children walking to school while she labored in the fields. Being born on the wrong side of the tracks was the difference between a hard life, less opportunity, and poor access to health care. I entered Medical School with motivation to work on projects that would help provide health care and opportunity to the underserved. I have been fortunate to be able to be a part of projects that are much larger than myself during my time at UTSW.

The Monday Clinic is a student-run free clinic that serves uninsured patients within the Dallas metro area. As president, I directly interacted with patients, physicians, students, and administrators from UT Southwestern and North Dallas Shared Ministries to ensure that a clinic could operate every Monday. I also served as a liaison for multidisciplinary projects, such as establishing depression screening, implementing Spanish-translation services, establishing an efficient medicine room-dispensing system, and creating educational materials for medical student volunteers. Through this position, I have gained a deeper understanding of the incredible amount of work and resources that can be required to provide health care to those in need. The experience also inspired "Successful Service," an online resource project initiated with a LaunchPad program here at UTSW in the hopes of aiding those who want to open a free health care clinic.

In addition to improved access to health care, I am enthused to also help improve access to educational opportunities. For the last two years, I have served as the speaker/education officer for the UT Southwestern Pipeline Program. This allowed me the opportunity to speak to elementary students from underprivileged school districts about their dreams and how we can best support them. I helped create assemblies, career days, and parent presentations to spread awareness of educational opportunities for their children. This work also inspired a podcast series called "Con Ganas (With Enthusiasm)," where I interviewed medical professionals from underrepresented minority groups about their journey in medicine.

Since I have been in Medical School, I have a deeper understanding of the resources and initiative required to ensure that both sides of the railroad have equal access to health care and opportunity. More importantly, I have seen what can be accomplished by individuals dedicating their time and expertise toward a common goal. I will continue to be a part of these projects that create pathways for minorities who dream of becoming physicians, make it easier to disseminate health care to low-resource regions, and utilize technology to lower the growing health care gap between social classes. The service opportunities at UTSW have provided me insight on these issues and inspired innovations that I hope can become part of their solution.