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Marquette Student Receives School Health Scholarship

Harpreet Singh-Gill, a candidate for a master's of nursing at Marquette University, has received a scholarship from the American School Health Association. She will be recognized at the association's 85th annual conference in Louisville, Ky., October 12.

In addition to her studies, Ms. Singh-Gill works as a line therapist at the Wisconsin Early Autism Project and as a research assistant at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

In 2006, she was a public health intern at the Center for Black Women's Wellness and at AID Atlanta, where she helped develop HIV/AIDS outreach programs, gained experience in case management and HIV/AIDS counseling and testing, and was certified in various training programs.

Ms. Singh-Gill says having Spina Bifida, a neural tube defect affecting the nervous system, has motivated her to become a pediatric nurse practitioner. As a child, she endured many surgeries and long hospital stays. She says the most memorable moments were of "the nurses who were there day and night helping me get better."

"As a result of the wonderful staff and my memorable experience at Children's Hospital [of Wisconsin], from the age five, I knew I wanted to be in the healthcare field. I wanted to make a difference in a child's life the way my family, doctors, nurses and surgeons have made a difference in mine," says Ms. Singh-Gill.

Ms. Singh-Gill dreams of providing "first-class health care to all people." Her goal is to operate a clinic that provides children and their families with resources ranging from clinical support and nutrition services to "the emotional, mental and physical therapy that is a very important part of the healing process."

"It has been a pleasure to witness Harpreet's metamorphosis into the noteworthy woman that she is today. I am amazed at her ability to succeed academically and professionally while still making sure that she gives back to her community. She is a prototype for all women demonstrating that regardless of life circumstances, you can excel in all life situations," says Deborah A. Bell, a retired principal, who has mentored Ms. Singh-Gill for 14 years.

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Through scholarships, the American School Health Association provides financial assistance to students whose academic and professional goals include the health of youth. The Association awards three scholarships of \$500 annually, one each to students in School Health Education, School Nursing and Pediatric/Adolescent Medicine or Dentistry

In addition to the financial award, the American School Health Association provides complimentary benefits including one-year membership and registration to the organization's Annual School Health Conference, which will be held in Louisville, KY, October 12-15 2011.

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