



# Stephanie O. Egos

I am Stephanie O. Egos, an 18-year-old Grade 11 student of Sisters of Mary School – Girlstown Inc. I am a motivated and hardworking student with a strong interest in medicine, particularly pediatrics. I am deeply passionate about the health and well-being of children, who I believe are the future of our country. I firmly believe that access to quality healthcare is essential for building a sustainable nation. Through my experiences as a student and my involvement in the community, I have developed a strong sense of responsibility, empathy, and leadership.

I grew up in a humble community in Barangay Capudlosan, MacArthur, Leyte. I am the eldest of four children, born to Alex Egos, 39 years old, and Raquel Osares, 38 years old. My parents raised us with dignity and perseverance. My father works as a rice crop farmer, while my mother, a housewife, instilled in us strong moral values. My siblings are Avril Ken, 13 years old and a Grade 8 student; Sean Matthew, 10 years old and a Grade 4 student; and Adriel, 4 years old. Despite our financial struggles, all of us strive to excel academically.

My parents were unable to finish their studies and entered married life at a young age. As our family grew, we were burdened by poverty. Farming income is unpredictable—harvest season does not come easily, and sometimes the earnings are entirely used to pay debts. This income is not enough to sustain our family, especially as my siblings and I continue our education. In response, my father worked multiple sideline jobs to support us, while my mother sold snacks in our elementary school canteen to help with expenses. Despite their tireless efforts, we still face financial hardship, especially now that I am preparing to enter college.

During my childhood, witnessing how poverty limited our access to proper healthcare fueled my desire to pursue medicine. Living in a rural area, we often relied on faith healers whenever someone got sick. The nearest hospital was two to three hours away, and although there were healthcare facilities nearby, there are no trained nurses and medical professionals. It is an empty room with rusted weighing scales and broken benches.

I vividly remember when my brother almost drowned in a nearby dam at the age of two, and when my youngest sibling suffered from seizures due to high fever on Christmas Eve at the age of three. Neither of them was brought to a doctor; instead, they were taken to faith healers. I strongly believe that this could not guarantee complete healing, especially from the

physical and psychological trauma they experienced. These events helped me empathize not only with my siblings but also with other children who experience the same or even worse situations. Adults can express their pain and symptoms, but children often cannot. This reality strengthened my determination to study medicine and dedicate my life to caring for children as a pediatrician.

At present, I am focused on fulfilling my responsibilities in school and maintaining academic excellence. I serve as a helping-sister to my assigned family saints and actively participate in various competitions. One of my proudest achievements is my journey as a Philippine Wildlife Quizzer, from regional champion to national-level competitor. I am also a topnotcher and a student with high honors. These achievements are fruits of my long years of service, perseverance, and gratitude—to my school, my SMS family, my parents, my siblings, and above all, to God. I believe that He blessed me with these abilities, and I strive to use them in the way He intended.

Being a Bona Via scholar is a great blessing and a significant breakthrough toward achieving my dreams. To become a doctor, a pre-med course is essential, which is why Bachelor of Science in Nursing is my top choice. I am planning to study at Cebu Normal University, based on the information I have carefully researched. With the help of the scholarship and by enrolling in a state university, my financial burden in college will be greatly reduced. As much as possible, I do not want to burden my parents with my college expenses so they can focus on supporting my siblings' education.

I am deeply grateful to God and to everyone behind this program who generously support financially challenged youth like me. Thank you very much for making our pathways toward our ambitions clearer and more attainable.