

## Meet Sylvana Paternite!



*Photo provided by Sylvana Paternite*

“My name is Sylvana Paternite, I am 25 years old and currently living in Lexington, Kentucky. I am originally from Cleveland Ohio and moved to Lexington three years ago after nursing school. I am finishing up my third year being a nurse at the University of Kentucky and I really am enjoying it. Nursing has always been something I enjoy because I find great joy in loving and serving people in some of the most vulnerable times in their lives. My favorite thing in nursing is the time I get to spend in Africa every year serving in a clinic. My time in Malawi, Africa has changed the trajectory of my life and I am pursuing this degree because of that. In the times when I’m not at work or doing school, I love hiking, cooking, spending time with friends, volunteering at my church or spending time at a free clinic nearby that serves refugees here in Lexington. I am applying for this scholarship to alleviate some of the financial burden that will prevent me from moving overseas to work as a Nurse Practitioner in the clinic I volunteer at in Malawi, Africa.”

### **Sylvana’s Scholarship Essay:**

#### **How will you make an impact on society after you have earned your degree?**

“This degree is very important for me, as for without it I could not do what I feel very strongly I am called to do. In 2013 I traveled to Malawi Africa for six weeks to get a transcultural credit for my undergraduate. That trip changed everything for me. My eyes were open to the needs of the world and I saw firsthand the power that I carried with my education in medicine. The people in Malawi captured my heart and they taught me more than I will ever teach them. My heart broke for the brokenness, the oppression, the injustice, and the darkness I experienced over in Malawi. Since then I have been back every year except 2014 when I

traveled to Guatemala and was studying for my NCLEX. In this last year though, I have really felt a strong call to move over to Malawi full time to be a nurse practitioner. I had an inkling when I started my NP degree that this is what I would be doing but I wasn't for sure. That is how I will be impacting society. I want to partner with Malawians to educate them on healthcare so they are empowered to take care of themselves and their families. This would be made possible by my continued partnership with Circle of Hope International. I would be working with a Malawian Doctor in the clinic as well as working with a nurse to have classes for the civilians. Malawians would be able to come to classes to learn about basic medicine so that they could provide basic needs for their families. Another way I would be able to impact the society in Malawi would be being part in opening up the first nursing school at the University there at the Grace Center. The University will be built in the coming years as we just purchased the land for it. I am not sure how long I will stay in Malawi, but I can see myself over there up to a decade.

My dreams for being an NP in the states would look like really partnering with vulnerable people groups, refugees and the homeless population to get the healthcare they need. I would also love to educate nursing students in the states as well to be raised up to actually care for people and teach them the importance of advocating for patients. I really do believe that God has given me a special heart for these people groups that are often forgotten about, and whether I am in American or overseas, I want to do what I can to educate and empower them with my nurse practitioner degree.”