



to pay for his fees.

Anthony was born in a remote village in Ghana, the 6th of eight children to parents who were peasant farmers. He walked barefoot for 12 miles through the bush to school held under the trees where he used his fingers in the dirt to write his lessons. This was his experience until he was 15, when his uncle took him to the city. That was his first ride in any kind of vehicle, his first introduction to electricity and the first time to see television. In the city he was able to go to school but he also had to work hawking food door to door, cleaning houses and weeding gardens

One of his first experiences in the city was at a hospital where he was fascinated by the doctor's gown and stethoscope and he told himself that he wanted to be a doctor. Applying himself, he studied chemistry, biology and math in high school, but further education beyond high school was not an option because of cost. Instead he took a job as a 3rd grade teacher hoping to save money to continue his education. He taught for ten years, with a passion to help children learn, that was borne out his own schooling experience. He still had a goal to go back to school but, with other demands, he was not able to save enough money.

Anthony told me that his name means 'patience' and patience was the trait he needed when he applied six times for the US State Department Diversity Visa Lottery before he was a lucky recipient. He arrived in the US in June of 2013, going first to Michigan where he had a contact. He worked three jobs to earn enough to take care of basic needs and to buy a car, but the main thing on his mind was his education. Online, he researched careers relating to healthcare, taking into consideration his age, the number of years needed to obtain a degree and job availability upon graduation. He decided to pursue becoming a nurse anesthetist. Having made that decision, he applied to Ivy Tech and started in the fall of 2014.

Anthony has completed his general education courses as a full time student but also has worked fulltime as an hourly associate at Amazon.com in Indianapolis since 2013. He has taken the TEAS test and is in his second semester of nursing school with the goal of graduating in May 2017. This kind of rigorous schedule has led to high blood pressure. Anthony says that he sees himself as self-sufficient with such strong inner motivation that it drives him toward achieving his goals. Consequently seeking any form of help or assistance such as this scholarship was difficult. So for the first time, Anthony decided to ask for help and applied for the Rotary scholarship. With this help he can cut back on his work hours. Anthony has applied to the Dept. of Homeland Security to bring his wife Jennifer here. When the two of them manage to acquire the necessary resources, they hope to bring their four children here as well. In the meantime the extended family in Ghana is caring for all of them. Knowing his story, I think we all can see how much this Rotary scholarship will help Anthony.