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## **Child & Adolescent Center helps student achieve college dream: 'I can't wait to give back'**

By [Christian Furmanski](#) -- September 4, 2019

Being a teenager isn't easy, especially with college looming. Getting good grades, stress and sometimes having no one to talk to doesn't make life any easier. However, for Adrianna Farmer, 18, Beaumont Health's Child & Adolescent Center at Adams Upper Elementary was there for her every step of the way.

Adrianna first connected with the clinic when she was 9 years old, attending wellness and healthy lifestyle events there.

At 12, Adrianna met someone who would go on to be a shining light in her journey to be the first in her family to attend college: Kassandra Luoma, RN, a family nurse practitioner at the clinic.

"I felt welcomed from day one. The clinic provided me with a safe environment, where I had someone to talk to and who would mentor me throughout my teens. You can feel that they really care about us," Adrianna said.

The on-site nurse practitioners provide services such as: physical examinations for school, sports or camp; immunizations; basic lab services and vision and hearing screenings. A social worker provides mental health and counseling services.

"Growing up in a single parent home is tough. My mom worked two jobs, and we didn't have a lot of time to sit down and talk. Kassandra listened to the things that were going on in my life and helped guide me through any troubles I was having," Adrianna said. "She helped me believe in myself and push myself to do my best and follow my dreams."

Adrianna began focusing on her health and general well-being with Kassandra's guidance.

"If something is ever wrong, the clinic is there for me," said Adrianna.

Although the clinical staff performs physicals and gives vaccines, they learn what the kids need through conversation and building trust.

"They may need clothing, food resources, backpacks or guidance. Whatever they need, we're here to help them any way we can," Kassandra said. "I want to give the idea that they can do anything, so I project that and help them throughout their journey. The idea is that you'll move forward because you have someone who believes in you."

Adrianna recently started classes at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor on a full-ride scholarship. She says the care she received from Kassandra and the clinic was her inspiration when deciding to choose her major in children's health.

"I want others to feel how Kassandra made me feel: loved and cared for from day one. She's done so much for me, and I can't wait to give back."

