

Rebecca Reef

As I grow older and my mind becomes infiltrated with societal ideals, my personal goal is to make sure I do not lose sight of what is important to me. When my father's best friend, Stuart Meltzer, was killed in the terrorist attacks on September 11th, my parents made it their mission to make sure that my brother and I dedicated our lives to something meaningful. I want to commit my life to helping others in need, a devotion that Mr. Rothberg shared with me. Ever since I was a little girl, my love for animals and science has influenced my desire to become a veterinarian. This dream has not wavered as I have become a young adult. I hope to not only become a practicing veterinarian that is able to help pets and their owners, but also to become an avid researcher with the ambition to find a cure for Syringomyelia, a neurological disorder that my dog was born with. I yearn to live a life of continual learning, so that I can use my knowledge to help other individuals and my community. Additionally, I hope to touch every person I meet with optimism and love, two principles that seem to be scarce in our modern world.

I admire how Mr. Rothberg was able to establish a prosperous professional life yet simultaneously stay true to his passions, such as philanthropy. Rather than just donating money to the causes he cared about, he gave his time and energy as well; his actions illustrate the epitome of integrity and personal success. Mr. Rothberg's genuine interest in supporting his community and those less fortunate than himself is inspiring, and I hope to mirror his generosity in my own life by continuing to volunteer at animal shelters and donating in all ways possible to scientific research. Although his life was tragically cut far too short, he lived his life in a very meaningful way that I believe everyone should strive for.