



# **Spring Will Come**

**Story by: Taylor Boxx, P.A.-C.  
Mayo Clinic Health System**

*French philosopher Albert Camus stated, "In the depth of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer." COVID brought startling contrasts: fear and joy, suffering and hope, even death and laughter. While COVID caused me worry and grief, it also helped me uncover potential within my family that led us to develop a product we could share with healthcare teams everywhere.*

*The power of small changes became clear to me as the winter of COVID precautions were introduced. Speaking to a grocery clerk through a partition was less personable, staying six feet away from friends made me feel disconnected and wearing uncomfortable, cumbersome safety glasses at work made me feel awkward. In a season of life when I have never had so many questions, I wanted to feel confident and comfortable in my appearance with my patients. One tired night after a late shift, I unloaded on my husband my frustration with the lack of quality comfortable safety glasses, to which my creative and courageous husband replied, "Let's fix it."*

*That was it: a catapult into the season of spring, a ray of sunshine breaking through the clouds, a new opportunity. This conversation was followed by research, experiments, surveys and trials. We interacted with people across the country and globe, learned about new subjects like the light spectrum and national safety standards and figured out how to use e-commerce platforms and social media. The seasons, it turned out, were changing, and we could feel the promise of sunshine.*

*Because of the unique weight that COVID put on me as a healthcare worker, my family now operates a new business called Rets in Eau Claire that sells quality, stylish and comfortable safety glasses for healthcare workers. Because of my vantage point within the system, I knew what would make a difference in healthcare worker's lives, like anti-fog properties and blue-light blocking lenses. Seeing fellow frontline workers feel comfortable and confident in their safety glasses and PPE brings me joy and pride during the pandemic.*

*As long as the seasons continue to change, we will all continue to bloom where we are planted and find a way to emerge from the storm even stronger than before.*

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## **Artist Jenna Paulson Menomonie, WI**

Jenna Paulson is a senior at Menomonie High School who has always had an interest in drawing. Her interest in drawing grew into a love for all kinds of art, whether that be animation, graphic novels, painting, or just plain making something. Next year Jenna will attend UW-Madison and pursuing a degree in Computer Science in order to be a part of something that combines her love for science and art.

*The piece I created is called "Spring Will Come." Based on the story, the writer had gone through some difficulties during the pandemic and couldn't seem to see a way out. Eventually, the writer's husband offered them a helping hand, and they made their own way into a new kind of life together. I liked that the writer kept referencing how the pandemic is*

*like winter and that spring brings new hope, so I took that and ran with it. I created a kind of triptych to show the three main stages of this experience and hope that the generality of the piece allows people to relate to this feeling too.*

**View all the pieces in the *Healing Reflections* [online gallery](#).**