

GRANDPA KENNY

I'm writing about one of my favorite people. My Grandpa Kenny. My Grandpa helps a lot of people. He has helped neighbors and family build fences, repair their houses and clean up their yards. One year he built a sandbox for us to play in. Another year he fixed a table. Something special about my Grandpa is he helps old people and people in wheelchairs and with cains. My Uncle Kelly is paralyzed and can't walk. My Grandpa helped my Uncle fix his home so he could use his wheelchair to get around the house and built a ramp for him. He has also built all the fun things in his back yard for his grandkids. My Grandpa has given food to the elderly people and to the poor. He worked in Mexico and gave presents to kids for Christmas. But one of my stories is when he saved a surfer from drowning. The kid was hit by a big wave and his surfbord knocked him out. My Grandpa jumped into the ocean to get him out of the water and gave him CPR. It saved his life. I love my grandpa and I want to be just like him. He is the best person and example.

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Kole Anderson

Grade 2

Franklin at Brimhall Elementary

Mesa Public Schools

1st Place - Essay Primary (Grades K-2)

GRANDMA AND THE LOONEY LOOMERS

People who help others are good leaders. Sixteen years ago my grandma made hats on a loom with her friends. They would send some things to the hospital for newborns and people who are sick. They called themselves the Looney Loomers. They made blankets, toys, rugs and bathroom kits to send all over the world. A few times they a truck to go to Mexico. A guy came and took the truck to Mexico. They called this person Santa Claus because he always dressed in red and had a big white beard. The houses in Mexico had dirt floors. The rugs made the floors nice so they could sit somewhere. The rugs looked nice on their floors. The Looney Loomers still get together two times a month. My grandma makes dresses and skirts for me. I want to learn just like her so I can serve others too.

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Avery Hatch

Grade 2

Franklin at Brimhall Elementary

Mesa Public Schools

2nd Place - Essay Primary (Grades K-2)

PROJECT SLEEP TIGHT

My grandma puts bags together for kids in homeless shelter. The bags hold a blanket, stuffed animal, book and a toothbrush. Sometimes people from a church or Scout group help my grandma by donating items or putting bags together. My grandma likes making kids feel special and have something of their own. Especially when they don't have a home and sleep in a new place.

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Weston Powell

Grade 2

Franklin at Brimhall Elementary

Mesa Public Schools

3rd Place - Essay Primary (Grades K-2)

SUPER MOM

Do you know a person who shows leadership through service? My mom shows leadership through service with her acts of kindness by helping those in need and saving lives. I look up to my mother because she has great character. She teaches me through example.

Despite the fact that she has her own struggles, she finds the time to help those in need. She participates in events such as Feed My Starving Children. She donates can food to local food drives. She never seems to surprise me with her random acts of kindness. For example, there was single mother and her children sitting by Wal-Mart on Thanksgiving with a sign that read, "Help us we're hungry." My mom bought the lady an entire Thanksgiving dinner, including the turkey without hesitation. The lady was filled with joy.

Though my mother shows random acts of kindness, she also shows leadership through service by saving lives on a daily basis. As a respiratory therapist she helps people that live on life support. Outside of work, she continues to help people. For example, she witnessed a car accident. She immediately jumped out of her car to help the victims. One victim was bleeding from her head, my mother took off her shirt to wrap around the wounded head.

Leadership isn't about how we advance as an individual, but how far we lead others. My mother is kindhearted, helpful, and selfless. In my mind she is Super Mom!

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Jadyn Frazier

Grade 5

Franklin at Brimhall Elementary

Mesa Public Schools

1st Place - Essay Intermediate (Grades 3-5)

SERVICE TO HOMELESS

Have you ever walked or drove down the street, and then you notice a person or animal that needs help. My step-mom demonstrates leadership through service by helping the homeless and saving animals in need. When she finds someone who is homeless, she will try to do what she can to help. She will give them water to drink and blankets to keep warm. We give them food to eat as well.

When we find animals who need help, we take them home until we find a good home. We find lost dogs, and then we find their owners. My Grandma's dog, Fluffy, had bad owners. She was saved and now has a good home. We've found hurt birds, and we take care of them until they feel better.

My step-mom shows leadership through service by helping homeless and saving strays. Helping them will give them a smile because they know it will inspire other people to help homeless.

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Tate Woods

Grade 5

Franklin at Brimhall Elementary

Mesa Public Schools

2nd Place - Essay Intermediate (Grades 3-5)

MY EVERYDAY HERO

Imagine spending two weeks of your life outside in the hot, humid weather working for nothing. This is what real heroes do. They don't fly like superman or have cool gadgets. Real heroes are good leaders to their community and give up their time for others.

A person that is an example of showing leadership through service is my Godmother Sarah. Sarah went to Kenya, Africa to help build a school for poor kids. The conditions in Kenya were hot and there was no running water. The volunteers had to pour buckets of water on themselves to get clean and that wasn't even enough. Sarah gave up her time and energy to help kids get a better education and a place to learn and feel safe.

Sarah has inspired me to be a leader because of her generosity and hard work. She taught me that not everyone has the basic things that we are all used to having here in the United States. It is because of her that I want to volunteer my time to help other people who are less fortunate. I want to be a good example in my community just like my Godmother.

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Andi Weber-Yeoman

Grade 5

Circle Cross Ranch K8 S.T.E.M. Academy

Florence Unified School District

3rd Place - Essay Intermediate (Grades 3-5)

A WOMAN OF FAITH

A mother's own love,
So faithfully strong,
She can lead me through trials,
When things go wrong.

Her spirit of giving,
And willingness too,
Escorts me through fear,
And anxiety I go through.

When I was smaller,
And frightened in the night,
She'd come to my bedside,
And guide me to the light.

Specifically in our family,
She leads us all,
No matter if the situation is,
Ginormous or small.

Now, nobody's perfect,
Not even my mother,
But I wouldn't replace her,
With any other.

She is my leader,
But not only guides me,
Children in schools she works for,
Are also needy.

My mother is my role model,
In so many ways,
She represents what I want to be,
For the rest of my days.

She went to college,
And wed a kind man,
She raised her children,
And drove a minivan.

She is now a substitute,
For teachers who are sick,
She leads the children,
For their candles, she is the wick.

Her other jobs in,
This family are sure,
To be the one,
Whose ways are pure.

She never curses,
And leads me in prayer,
Her loving arms,
Will always be there.

My mother is a leader,
As true as can be,
And that makes me feel very
Blessed to be me.

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Kaitlin Weed

Grade 8

Leading Edge Academy - GEC

Gilbert Public Schools

1st Place - Essay Middle (Grades 6-8)

MY COUSIN SHAWN

My cousin Shawn spent the last five years of his life showing leadership through service. He left his job and family behind for five years, to help a community that had no hope in life.

Shawn moved to Rwanda, Africa and started a nonprofit organization. In the organization he taught the people in the Rwandan community to farm, raise animals, and start a business to sell what they grow and raise.

Shawn made a sacrifice in his life to help impact the lives of others for generations to come. Because of Shawn, the Rwandans make money for their family and have a better life. Without him, the people in the community would be starving and super poor. He has impacted their lives dramatically.

Shawn moving to Rwanda turned out to be the best thing in the world for him because this is where he met his wife. Shawn met Grace in Rwanda while he was helping farmers and she was helping Rwandan woman, both for their own nonprofit organizations. My cousin Shawn shows what an amazing person, and great role model he is. He shows amazing leadership through really tough service that really makes a difference in peoples lives, and their community. We need more people like Shawn in this world.

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Mason Wilson

Grade 7

Ingleside Middle School

Scottsdale Unified School District

2nd Place - Essay Middle (Grades 6-8)

MY MOM: A HERO

Not all superheroes wear capes, in fact, only the fictional ones do. My mom was a gift from the heavens above. She came into this world to bring a thing we don't see come very often. She came into this world to bring **change**. My mom was born in a pretty poor country called Belize. If you have asked any adult I have met, they will tell you that Belize is one of the prettiest places in the world. She always told me that she would always see the sad children in boxes, praying to God each night that they would get a better life. Now, my mom always told me that you can do anything you want to do when you put your mind to it. I have always wanted to be an actor. Make people laugh, put a smile on their face, that was my dream. But I remembered something. I am a son of God. I was put on this planet to do the impossible. This is my time. I knew I could do it. I had to make change, one way or another. Mom always told me that those children never got to have nice things, like a bed to sleep in, or toys to play with. With the help of my mom, we decided that we will make our own charity. It's not like a charity, charity. But, we do what we can. We provide clothes, for kids who need them most. We provide toys, games, and even sometimes, shelter, for the kids who need it most. We even provide stuff like strollers, just anything we can donate, we donate. It first started out as a just a mini charity for my mom's home country of Belize, but now, it has grown to my home state of Arizona, and also growing to California. People may not know this, but the easiest thing you can do is donate. No not money, donate blood, donate stuff you can't use anymore, donate anything you can. The easiest thing you can donate is a smile. So go out, do what you can. The people you donate to will probably not remember what you said, or remember what your name was, but they will always remember what you did, and that's what matters most.

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Bryce Briggs

Grade 6

Cocopah Middle School

Scottsdale Unified School District

3rd Place - Essay Middle (Grades 6-8)

I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND

In the beginning
I didn't understand why you wasted so much of your efforts doing things
That weren't for you
For example we'd still have water bottles in the car if you hadn't given
them to needy strangers on the streets every time
Or we all the ice cream we'd buy if you didn't give a dollar or two to the
homeless
And the time (oh the time!) we'd have to do more, if you hadn't pulled
aside to help someone start their car or take them to the nearest gas
station
The dinners that you so delicately crafted
Wouldn't been so delicious
But you happily packed them and made me hand it out to that family
I was stubborn and I was selfish
But I finally understood
Why you did that
I thought you were dumb
Punishing me for no reason
I didn't see the point of doing those things
when we had troubles of our own
And they were big troubles
I learned that his world needs help, and a lot of it
We must aid to those around us
Be a light unto others who struggle
Because we never know what waves their sails are going through
And you aren't a global leader of *this* world
You might never be
But that's okay because you don't need to be an international example
To demonstrate love and kindness through small acts of service to the
ones around you (*Cough* me)
So thank you Mother
For always being the global leader in *my* world

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Manuela Campuzano

Grade 10

St. David High School

St. David Unified School District

1st Place - Essay Secondary (Grades 9-12)

MY GRANDPA HIGGINBOTHAM

The fifth grade teacher who loved to tease
Kind to all creatures: cows, lizards, and bees
Walked along quietly, smiled at you
Brightened your day; he knew what to do

He gave you a nickname; to make you feel special
Always on time, never off schedule
He loved his family, they always came first
His language was clean. He never cursed

A hardworking man, he maintained his own ranch
This skill he learned, when in the army branch
He was brave and he was loyal
To his people and to his gospel

He served a volunteer mission for his church two times
Went to Mexico, crossed the border line
He learned to speak Spanish, spoke it fluently
He taught all he could throughout the community

Then one day it was time for him to go
Up to heaven, I know, I know
He taught me great things to learn in life
To strive to do good, to choose the right

He knew how to love. He knew how to give
I hope that that's the way that I will live
He may not have won the Nobel Peace Prize
But he is a true server in my eyes

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Preston Anway

Grade 9

St. David High School

St. David Unified School District

2nd Place - Essay Secondary (Grades 9-12)

GRANDMA

My grandma has always been an inspiration to me. She has taught me how to do so many things in my life that I will always be very grateful for. She is a kind, hardworking, strong woman. My grandma always knows what to say when someone is feeling down. She taught me how to sew, play the piano, and how to always help others. These are traits in my grandma that I hope will be taught to me.

Something that my grandma has done ever since I can remember is that every thanksgiving she collects food and donates it to a food drive, and every Thanksgiving she makes quilts and donates them to her church. I admire her for always wanting to help people. Also, she always donates money to the American Cancer Association when she gets a chance. My grandma is very hard working because, even when she was battling breast cancer she always still found ways to help others. When she was in the hospital she met other patients and sent them flowers and "get well soon" cards. She would volunteer at church functions and other activities that were not too hard for her at the time. My grandma always does Relay for Life, and makes treats to sell and donates the money to cancer research.

I love my grandma and I know that she is an amazing person, I hope that I will be able to accomplish some of the things that she has done in her life, and be an inspiration to so many people.

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Sadie Young

Grade 9

St. David High School

St. David Unified School District

3rd Place - Essay Secondary (Grades 9-12)