

My brother Dylan shows leadership through service. He helps people in need and he is on the city council.

Dylan is known around the town. He fixes cars, buildings, fences. He mows school yards. He helps elderly people in his community.

Dylan is on the city council in Benjamin, Texas. He is a Jack of all trades. He is generous with his time and resources. He volunteers to help at football games.

Dylan is a good leader because he serves others and he is on the city council. I am proud of Dylan because he leads through service.

This is student work, transcribed as the student presented it.

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Isabel Gideon

2nd Grade
Ambassador Christian Academy
1st Place - Essay Primary

Daddy Joe

He was born January 15th, 1986 in Greeville, ky. He moved to SanDiego Californua and joined the UNITED States Navy when he was 19. He served on the USS Nimitz and the USS Tarawa. He passed away May 19th, 2010 serving our country. He was 24 yeas old. He was a model Sailor. As an ABHAN he refoieled aircraft. H moveed to AZ when he was 9. On his name tag it sed OS2 Joseph A Mccomsey. He joined the ROTC in high school He was given posthumously (after his death) to my mom at his military funeral. He was deployed on 3 wes Pasific tours Each one lasting 6-9 moths. He met my mom at 15 years old at a concert Although he had been told he'd recert. Although he had been told he'd recieved the NAM by his command it. He recieved many awards and ribbons. He was most proud of recieving the Navy Achivment Medal His favorite Duty Station was the USS Peleliu. He changed jobs to be an OS operation specialist. He reads raydar maps and helped with navigation of the USS Peleliu. He served a total of 5½ years in USN. He is a great example of be like him someday. THE END

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Nevaeh McComsey

2nd Grade
Franklin at Brimhall Elementary
Mesa Public Schools
2nd Place - Essay Primary

My Dad

My dad does not only care about himself, so he cares about other people. He helps the community.

My dad is very helpful and caring. He helps people that are homeless. He even goes to different countrys.

My dad led a trip to Mexico, and brings me to volenteer events. Lik painting houses and building houses.

If he didn't go to Mexico people could be homeless. He went to Mexico with the church.

He told me to love your neighbor, so they love you.

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Josiah Zamora

2nd Grade
CTA Goodman
Chandler Unified School District
3rd Place - Essay Primary

Do you know anyone who best demonstrates leadership through service? Well I do, and I think that my neighbors best demonstrates leadership through service by helping those in need and putting other people before themselves. They are probably the nicest people I know! Meet Yvonne and Armando.

My neighbors especially love helping orphans in need. They have decided to make thier way on over to an orphanage all the way in Albuquerque, New Mexico to help and spend time with the orphans currently residing there. They will go up on the second Saturday of each even month. Yvonne and Armando give up their own useful time just to help the orphans!

When my neighbors go to the orphanage, they bring the children toys, clothes, and food. When school time comes around they bring them backpacks and school supplies. Yvonne likes to bring the orphans presents for Christmas, costumes for Halloween, and she always brings her love, smile, and her laugh. Armando will bring sports supplies during summer and spring to play with the orphans to make them happy!

Yvonne always makes people happy. She makes our family dinner, give us presents, talks to us for fun, and always thinks of us and families in our neighborhood. Armando makes you laugh. He can make anyone laugh! He makes our parents, me, my siblings, our neighbors, the orphans, and anyone who seems to need it. He is also very selfless.

I love and know my neighbors show very clear leadership through service by helping those in need. Yvonne is very kind, and Armando is very funny. Together they make a simple, but kind, example of leadership through service.

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Kennedy Minor

5th Grade
Franklin at Brimhall Elementary
Mesa Public Schools
1st Place - Essay Intermediate

My Mom

My mom is a good example of a hero. She helps everyone. She shows leadership through service. What she does is she influences others to adopt. She is a mentor to people in foster and adoption community.

My mom has legal guardianship over me and my sister Faith. I've been in her life since the age of 4. She has other kids she adopted, and has 5 kids of her own. That makes 21 kids altogether.

My mom takes us to Walmart to get what we need. We get food, clothes, and drinks. Mom sometimes gives donations of clothes that we no longer need. Most of all she loves us and takes care of us.

My mom has been helping our community. She's been writing a bill for trauma training for adoptive families. The reason why is because some therapists aren't advanced or masterd to help these kids. The state only provides basic concling and sometimes it is not enough. The goal is that these kids wont have hard times anymore with their adoptive families. We are praying for the bill to pass.

These examples show that my mom is a hero. She wrote and presented it in court. The work she does in our community and for our family which helps so many people.

This is student work, transcribed as the student presented it.

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Joyce Ruiz

5th Grade
Ambassador Christian Academy
2nd Place - Essay Intermediate

My dad is a good example of someone who shows leadership through service. He helps his friends and his family.

My dad is a really good friend because he has time to help his friends. Sometimes he fixes his friends' cars because he has, a helpful heart. Sometimes my church needs my dad to get food for the food pantry. When his friends' windows are broken, he fixes the windows because he used to have a job where he put windows in houses. My dad is a really good man because he is kind to his friends.

My dad has adopted a lot of kids. He has twelve kids adopted in the family. He is going to adopt one more kid. Maybe this will be the last kid we are going to adopt.

My dad loves to spend time with his family. He plays a lot of games like board games and video games with us. He makes really good diner, and I like his recipe for his chili. When we have money, he takes us to special places. My dad is a really good dad because he spends time with his family. My dad is a very loving dad.

My dad has influenced me to help other people and to be kind. I want to be just like my dad.

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Bryce Light

5th Grade
Ambassador Christian Academy
3rd Place - Essay Intermediate

ASU Dr. King Essay

For this essay I am choosing to write about my mom. My mom demonstrates leadership through service by running a foundation for childhood cancer and helps fund research to hopefully one day find a cure. Her foundation is a non-profit and gets money through donations and events. My mom is following in the footsteps of Dr. King by showing compassion for others because she is helping a very terrible situation that a lot of families world wide have to go through having their kid have childhood cancer.

My mom spends a lot of time and effort on raising money for childhood cancer research. Unfortunately childhood cancer gets one of the lowest amount of funding from the government out of all types of cancer. One day my mom hopes to build a hospital and eventually help cure childhood cancer. That is how my mom is following in the footsteps of Dr. King.

She is also following in the footsteps of Dr. King because all of the work she does she does it for others just like Dr. King. Dr. King hoped for a change to happen and he was a huge factor to that change and my mom too hopes for a change in the amount of kids with childhood cancer. That is examples and reasons for how my follows Dr. Kings footsteps.

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Quinn Thompson

8th Grade
Ingleside Middle School
Scottsdale Unified School District
1st Place - Essay Middle

My Grandma, My Hero

When you think of good you think of people impacting people or society in a positive way. That person will think of others before herself. They will be charitable and treat others the way they want to be treated. All of these traits lead me back to one person, my grandma.

My grandma originally started charitable organizations when involved with Keep Texas Beautiful. This is a nonprofit organization that strives on keeping environments beautiful and healthy. My grandma was part of this for many years. She was the director for Keep El Paso Beautiful, and on the board for Keep American Beautiful. She loved to see her community thrive, with the help of her hands. Even after she has parted ways with this charity she always tried to do her best for community. She was a teacher for some time and loved helping and teaching kids to better their education. I also remember her volunteering at my elementary school. Always putting the society and others first.

Another thing my grandma does is donating to a charity that gives goats or other animals to families in need in Africa. These families need the milk to provide for everyday meals. One of the gifts she got me for Christmas was the fact that we gave a baby goat to a family in Africa. This was the best gift I could have gotten. Another thing my grandma did with me at her side was making goodie bags for children in the town of Juarez, Mexico. These kids were living in cardboard huts. My grandma wanted to do anything she could to make them smile. Thankfully she had me help. Thanks to my grandma I got to help people in need, who are not as fortunate as I.

My grandma is a leader and hero that inspires me to do good everyday. One day I would love to be exactly like her, one who puts others before herself.

This is student work, transcribed as the student presented it.

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Ella Crowson

8th Grade
Ingleside Middle School
Scottsdale Unified School District
2nd Place - Essay Middle

MLK Leadership

I am a very lucky person. I have a great family, I am lucky. I am so lucky my family took me to South Africa. That trip changed my life at age 9. In South Africa we were given options to either swim with sharks or to visit a township. We chose to visit a township in Cape Town, South Africa. This was a place where kids were running around with no shoes on, no toys, not a care in the world. The community leader was a woman named Vivian. Vivian helped others, taught others before she helped herself. She looked out for the next generations with care. She ran a soup kitchen, a preschool, and more. She was doing the best she could to change this poverty inflicted society. Vivian changed hundreds of people's lives daily. She is the leader of an organization called the Iliso Care Society. No, I am not close to her, I have not talked to the Iliso Care Society since 2010. But I think about her everyday and how she changes the lives of hundreds of people. She taught me that you should always help others, care for others, respect others and teach others. Vivian is a true leader. These are the people who should lead communities and help people. This is what Martin Luther King did, he changed lives with help, respect and care.

This is student work, transcribed as the student presented it.

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Landon O'Rourke

8th Grade
Ingleside Middle School
Scottsdale Unified School District
3rd Place - Essay Middle

Tragedy Turned to Triumph

Since I was ten years old, I have been participating in a charity golf event in northern California, but never understood why until I was eleven years old. I would like to introduce to you a close family friend of mine, Clay Foutch. Clay is like a second father to me, and he hosts an incredible annual charity golf tournament called the Samantha Invitational that he started. Samantha was Clay's daughter, who was tragically murdered when she was nine along with her mother and step-sister, by her violent step-father.

For approximately three years, my father and I have participated in this tournament. The tournament raises money for a summer bereavement camp that Clay also runs in Carefree, AZ. The camp is called Camp Samantha, which is part of a local charity called Stepping Stones of Hope. Clay started this fundraising event to help other families overcome the same thing that happened to them. Camp Samantha is a summer camp that families spend a weekend meeting other families who are undergoing grief.

Clay brings happiness and love into the hearts of so many people who have suffered a loss in their family. He empowers those who were once grieving to heal while still remembering their loved ones.

Even though Samantha is gone, and would be 22 today, she will always be in the hearts of the people who loved her. Thanks to Clay and Christina, Camp Samantha continues to help children and adults cope with their grief and remember their loved ones.

This is student work, transcribed as the student presented it.

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Madison O'Sullivan

9th Grade
Cactus Shadows High School
Cave Creek Unified School District
1st Place - Essay Secondary

Leadership Takes Action

Leadership is not about having a position of power, because leaders can be found anywhere throughout a community. For instance, someone may raise money to help families in need or make funds for a church that needs reparations. That is why my next door neighbor known as Mrs. Jordan is an important leader in my community. The reason she can be identified as a leader is because she has helped the Douglas community by helping organize church events as well as made hamburger sales to raise money for the church, and donates a fair amount of food and clothes to the food bank or the House of Hope. Not only that, but Mrs. Jordan has taken important roles such as being recognized as an honorable lady now at her ninety-three years of age. In other words, she has become someone who has demonstrated ethical courage to everyone in her community. As a matter of fact, Mrs. Jordan when she was younger encouraged many citizens of Douglas to vote during federal elections as she knew all townperson had a voice. For example, she acquired many signatures that are necessary for a candidate running for office, and promoted their campaign which was big aid for Douglas, as many people were more exposed to the different candidates as to decide the best choice. That is why Mrs. Jordan was given the key to the city for being a great leader and involved citizen in our community.

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Vanesa Delavara

12th Grade
Douglas High School
Douglas Unified School District
2nd Place - Essay Secondary

When I hear the word hero, I immediately think of my Grandmother, whom I lovingly call Bubbie. Not only is she a major influence in my life, she greatly impacts the lives of many others. She regularly volunteers with the American Cancer Society. My Bubbie is a breast cancer survivor of 35 years. She had a mastectomy and had to go through chemotherapy. Soon after her surgery, she began to visit women in the hospital after their mastectomies. The Program was called Reach To Recovery. She would bring women a pillow, bra extenders, and special padding that they could wear right away before being fit for a prosthesis. Most importantly, Bubbie would share her personal experience and offer advice such as special exercises to help with their healing. She would always make herself available to these women even after their hospital stay. This time spent was healing and very much appreciated. A year after her surgery, she was able to volunteer with the American Cancer Society, helping women who were undergoing chemotherapy choose their perfect new wig. This is a very emotional and difficult time for women. My grandmother is extremely strong, positive, and caring. She has a unique ability to make every person she meets feel special. She offers support and advice. At the wig room, my grandmother fits women into their new wigs and shares her personal journey and the journey of others to help comfort these women going through this tough time. Over the years, she has received the most beautiful letters of thanks. While she is inspiring these women, the women are also inspiring her.

This is student work, transcribed as the student presented it.

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Lauren Benjamin

9th Grade
Cactus Shadows High School
Cave Creek Unified School District
3rd Place - Essay Secondary