

## **My Special Grandma**

When I think of someone who serves others I think of my Grandmère. My Grandmère was born in France. Grandmère means great grandma in French.

My grandmère loves helping little kids. She has helped in my moms classroom with her students. Those students didn't have much. She decided she would sew a coat, hat and scarf for each student in the class. When she saw how grateful they were and other students in need, she made enough for all of 1st grade. She gifted 130 students hand made clothes. She always gives back to the neediest in the community. I am proud to be her great grand-daughter. And I think she has a great heart.

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

## **My Grandma**

My Grandma is very nice and fun. She always prays at night. My grandma and I gave homeless comfy blankets. It was really cold in winter. We found a big squad of homeless so we gave them some warm breakfast burritos. To all the homeless. When we found one then we could them a blanket and a burrito. And a little snack to have. It was fun! And I learned that helping homeless is better than buying toys instead. You should buy some things that are useful. It is because you don't want your kids to be a rude person. You want your kids to grow up nice. To respect others and be the nicest person in the world. That is why my Grandma inspires me.

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My grandfather, Dr Lakhan Lal Sinha who was a world famous Doctor on Respiratory diseases. My grandfather did his MRCP degree from England and returned to India to serve the poor patients of his state. Dr Sinha left his comfortable life to provide service to his country men. He practiced medicine, helped the poor, and the diseased through his practice and consultation. He motivated an entire generation of youngsters from his village in Nalanda to become Doctors and professionals. He set an example of his service and dedication. This teaches to always work hard, and help the poor by service.

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

**2019 Arizona State University  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration**

**Bjorn Sinha**

3rd Place - Essay Primary

2nd Grade

CTA Goodman

Chandler Unified School District



## How Do I Find My Voice

Who is the one that helped you to find your voice?  
I think my mom is the one that helped me to find my voice because of her kindness, wisely, and symthy. With my mom I grown up as a strong girl.

Every time when I fail she helped me to get up. She said don't worry, because you're closer to success. She said don't be shy, you're doing a great job. She said don't cry, be strong, find your voice be your best self.

Every time when I was afraid she helped me to be strong. When I was afraid to make friends, she said it's okay, go play with them. When I was afraid to go to a new school, she helped me to learn more and make friends. When she send me to my favorite dance class, I was afraid I can't do it and she helped me with it.

Every time when I lack of self confidence, she always encourage me. When I faced a lot people to read poetry, I'm so nervous, she told me, that she believe me I can do it. She told me as long as I have confidence, that's the first step to success. She told me confidence can help to find my voice, be my best self.

In summary, my mom, the one that helped me to find my voice with he kindness, wisely, and symthy. With her, I grow up as a strong girl. And I need to said thanks to my mom for helping me to find my voice to be my best self.

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## My Great Grandma

With all the recent talk on the Supreme Court and judges I was excited to find out my great grandmother was the first woman judge in Provo Utah. In 1969 her hard work and want to succeed even as a woman in time when a woman's main job was in the home, made me realize that even as a girl I can become anything I want if I work hard for it.

Even though she worked hard as a judge, and loved being a mother to 4 kids. She showed me how it's possible to balance family and work at the same time. She did not like one thing more than the other.

Ada Phillips Robinson is her full name. She was a school teacher by trade and was happy with that. She was given as a judge because of her husband's sickness, but took the seat after that and kept being elected for 17 years until she retired on her own.

My great grandmother did not have to serve her community as judge but decided to because she knew it was the right thing to do. She was a very nice lady.

She served her family and community by being a judge in her own home! My Dad remembers watching her be in a case. She served from 1969 to 1986. I am proud to be the great granddaughter of my great grandma even though I was really little when I saw her I know she is great.

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## A Leader

My mom shows leadership through service in many different ways. She has adopted eleven children including myself. We are going to adopt another child that we are fostering. He is probably going to be our last we adopt. His name is Nico but we are changing to Luka. She takes care of us too. She lets us go out or have a cake on our birthday. Although, she lets us go out or have cake its tough to decide which one to choose. She makes good enchilada casserole with olives and chicken inside it.

She volunteers in our community by helping pull the dead weeds on the church farm. So at 4:00 in the morning mom, me and four of my siblings got up to do yard work. She also works at (name omitted) once a week. She gives pregnancy tests to girls. She's also learning how to counsel pregnant women and parents. My mom enjoys working and helping pregnant women at the pregnancy center.

My mom schedules so many appointments for me and my adopted siblings. Her calendar is very full. She sometimes takes us from school to make sure we are on time. When my brother had surgery on his back to make his spine straighter, she stayed with him in the hospital. She schedules so many appointments and surgeries because she wants us to stay healthy. My mom shows leadership through service and has inspired me to do the same.

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## **My Hero**

When I think of a leader I think of someone who is generous, caring, humble, inspired, driven, and courageous. All of these words define my Aunt Judy. My aunt not only is a leader, but she is an inspiration. When I grow up I would be honored to be like her.

My aunt formed an organization for kids with childhood cancer. As you can imagine, it is miserable for a kid to have to experience cancer. Through tests, procedures, chemotherapy and radiation, the last thing a kid wants to lose is their hair. My Aunt Judy felt the least she could do was knit beanies for kids who have sadly lost their hair. Although it is not fun losing your hair, at least you can be stylish while doing so. She has knit over 700 beanies and counting, making sure that each one has the softest yarn she can find.

My Aunt as well as Martin Luther King Jr. think about people in need and not just about themselves. They worry about people and try to make certain situations better. They both sacrificed what they had to help make life better for others. My Aunt is following in Martin Luther King Jr's footsteps, and I hope someday I will too. Martin Luther King Jr said "The time is always right to do what is right" and my Aunt definitely believes this.

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## Hope for Cancer Kids

Ever since her two-year-old son was diagnosed with leukemia, Lonni Leavitt-Barker has worked to create a way to help others get through the painful process of cancer. From spending time with her son Kean in the hospital, she found that one of the best ways to comfort others was through other kids' stories of success. After four years of Chemotherapy, Kean was done with cancer, even though the memories would leave a mark on the family forever.

Lonni saw the inspiration others who were going through cancer had received from Kean's story. This led her to help create the "Hall of Heroes" in their hospital's pediatric wing. The Hall is filled with portraits of children who have beat cancer and their stories, and the walk through will forever serve as an upbeat addition to the normally solemn area.

Once again, she strived to do more. She realized Kean was able to get through his cancer treatment with another factor: music. She began the Baldapalooza music festival, a fundraiser event to raise money for families dealing with cancer. Recently they partnered with Camp Rainbow Gold, a completely nonprofit organization that provides a trip into the mountains for cancer kids and their families.

Through these actions of service, Lonni has been able to cause so much joy in people with little happiness. She has raised money to support several kids living with cancer. For these reasons and others, she truly is an exceptional example of someone who has caused kindness through service.

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## Reshaping Lives

My father, a doctor, found out at one point in his career that all people have a tragedy that befalls them, one way or another. His patient and friend, Sue Ellen Allen, is no exception.

Sue Ellen Allen went to prison at the age of 57. She had a multitude of experiences there and found her passion while inside. During her sentence, Sue Ellen observed that most women had less than an eighth grade education, which would make it difficult to be productive citizens once they were released. So, when she got out, she started an organization called Gina's Team, with a purpose to provide education and expand the horizons for uneducated inmates. She was so devoted to this cause that later she started a larger organization called Reinventing Reentry. She organized seminars, which displayed the goals of Reinventing Reentry in universities and businesses around the nation. She also conducted workshops in several states, with the absolute purpose of prison reform. In addition, she visited the White House several times, and worked with Jared Kushner on criminal justice.

I am convinced that this program will change the perspectives of prisons around the nation. This would provide the necessary tools and education for successful integration of released inmates into the society, and allow them to be more productive than ever before. Sue Ellen is definitely reshaping post prison life to make them productive citizens across the nation. Sue Ellen is a beacon of hope to lead the way for prison reform.

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## **For the Love of Bicycles**

I first came to know Danielle as my mountain bike coach, an Iron Man finisher, and a gifted decorator of Christmas cookies. During her first year coaching the girls on our school mountain bike team, Danielle saw a glimpse of the empowerment that can come from the simple act of riding a bicycle.

So, when she came across 88bikes, a charity dedicated to donating bicycles to girls (especially victims of human trafficking, domestic violence, and orphans) around the world, she instantly connected with their mission. Danielle was moved not only to donate bikes, but also to ask what more she could do. She ended up traveling around the world to Cambodia to donate 400 bikes, and more importantly to ride with the girls there.

In July, Danielle spent two weeks in rural Mongolia to donate 130 more bikes. Despite language barriers, she tried to get to know every girl. And as the girls' serious stares were softened by smiles when they received their bikes, the overall feeling of excitement transcended language barriers.

For these girls, bikes can not only mean a way to transverse the vast Mongolian steppe on their way to school, but also provide a simple sense of joy. Danielle knows donating bikes won't stop human trafficking or domestic violence. Yet she still plans on sharing her love of bikes with girls around the world in the hope that regardless of their circumstances, they can experience that joy, know they are loved, and be inspired to dream bigger.

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

## **Kim Carter Takes on the World**

Kimberley Carter, 40 years old, born and raised in the outskirts of Royal oak Michigan, has big dreams for herself and her family. She's my aunt and also a dreamer. Through the years of growing up, she would always be there for me. She's my second mother. She always wore her heart on her sleeve, even with her crazy side of her. When Kim was a little girl, there wasn't anything like volunteering in her city or even being a part of the community.

Kim is different, she loved to be involved. She loved helping kids out and volunteering in school, any way she could. Kim volunteers in her community and runs her very own organization for single mothers who battle life challenges and addictions. They all meet in a community garden area that will be set up by Kim and the help of neighborhood volunteers. The first attendance totaled only about 10 women; however, as the months progressed, the group grew to about at least 20 mothers. Some of the discussions in the group related to about how important relationships are with their children. It helped the woman have a better outlook on life. It offered opportunities for the woman to gain life skills, such as jobs, schooling, anything that would help better their lives. These woman lived in the smaller, inner city. Kim provided kid games and activities for the kids. The group would gather around, sharing their own experiences, which helped them understand how overcoming bad situations can be possible. Over the summer of 2017, my family and I got to join my aunt for one of their meetings. I got to listen to girls and boys my age tell their stories. I am so glad my aunt made this organization. I truly believe the women in the group learned so much about motherhood and the roles they play in their children's life. My aunt will always be a true role model to me, the mothers in the group, and many more people in her life.

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



## **Since They Served, She Asked**

Most people don't take the time to thank veterans when they see them in their community, but Barbara Hatch gives veterans the ultimate "thank you"; she listens. In 2004, Mrs. Hatch created a school club that provides an opportunity for veterans to connect with high school students. Veterans share their stories with students who write and persevere these narratives for generations to come. By establishing an environment where students learn life skills and history from veterans who severed their country, Barbara Hatch inspires service through her leadership.

Often times, veterans who participate in the Veterans Heritage Project have never spoken about their experiences in war. The interview process is often a cathartic experience for these veterans. The student's curiosity, encouraged by Mrs. Hatch, helps the veterans open up about their past. These exchanges between generations often create an unbreakable bond between veteran and student. The process culminates at an annual reception where the veterans are honored and receive the book that contains their story. The tears of sadness and joy resulting from a welcome finally received and the beaming smiles of stooped, stately men that occur at the reception reveal the impact of Barbara's mission.

I am inspired by Barbara Hatch's commitment to her cause. She never lets us forget the reason why we put in all the hours of work. We have made a commitment to the veterans in our community to honor and preserve their narratives. Mrs. Hatch's dedication to our nation's heroes exemplifies leadership through service.

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

**2019 Arizona State University  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration**

**Mikaela Morris**

3rd Place - Essay Secondary  
9th Grade

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