

## MY DAD

My dad is the best! One time my mom told me about my dad. There was a paralyzed man next door. My dad went over every morning to help him. He got him out of bed and brushed his teeth. My dad got him brekfust, lunch, and dinner every day. He helped even on holidays. My dad helped him in a wheel chair. My dad is a great exampl for other peopole. He took him on walks to. I hope I can be like him sumday.

This is student work, transcribed as the student presented it

2022 Arizona State University  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration



**Grayson Baldwin**

1st Place - Essay Primary  
2nd Grade

Franklin at Brimhall Elementary School  
Mesa Public Schools

## MY DAD

My dad worked at Rite of Passage. He helped young boys who got in trouble and had no homes and family. He helped the boys make better choices so they could go back and live with a family member. He helped find boys that had no houses or places to live.

My dad was a mentor to these kids. He gave them love. He helped make them become better people. He was a good example. The kids loved my dad. He was a good influence I love my dad.

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## KENDYL

My mom's friend Kendyl is the best. She is smart, strong, and funny. She also goes to my church. She is always bringing us food to eat. If you need anything, she'll be the first one there even if she has other plans.

Kendyl is also a professional photographer. Once she was taking pictures for some one, and saw a mom taking pictures of her daughter with a crying baby in her arms. Kendyl felt embarrassed but she walked up and offered to take the lady's pictures for free! The lady was so so grateful.

I am so lucky to know Kendyl. I don't know what my family would do without her.

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## MY FRIEND MARCO

I am writing about my mom's friend, Marco. He is such a good person and here's why.

To begin with, Marco turned his restaurant, Republica Empanada, into a food donation site. He and volunteers took the donations to remote villages on the Navajo Reservations. In three months they made a total of 17 trips driving over 12,000 miles. They gave tens of thousands of food and PPE to the Native Americans of the Navajo Reservations.

Marco also helped with many BLM protests in Mesa by using his restaurant again to gather people to make signs for BLM protests. He is constantly trying to help stop racism and police brutality and to show that black lives matter.

In conclusion, Marco has helped many people through turbulent times and I hope he continues to help people in need.

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## MY GRANDMA

My grandma shows leadership and service by helping kids in need. She gives them things to do so they aren't bored. She does not like to see people bored.

My grandma goes to different shelters to give the kids little bags. The bag has a blanket, books, a tooth brush, tooth paste, and she gives them a little stuffed animal. They look very happy when they see whats in the bag. My grandma loves it.

My grandma sees kids that have disabilities and kids that that can't talk. She liked seeing kids faces. She loves to give kids toys to play with at the shelters.

For all these reasons, this is why I think my grandma best shows leadership and service.

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## SUPER TIA!

My tia (aunt) helps people that are homeless. She shows leadership by helping Power With Love in Mexico. My tia gave a “Posole” last night. She cooked a Mexico soup to feed people without homes. She says that they suffer a lot.

My tia also includes older people when she serves. In Power With Love, my tia also collects and donates shoes, and clothes for older people. She also helps cook food, clean thir houses, and give them baths. I learn a big lesson from my tia, and her leadership. Because of her, I also help too—almost all day on weeknds. My tia, Yadira Alcaraz, is teaching me inclusion.

This is student work, transcribed as the student presented it

**Damian Villa**

2022 Arizona State University  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

3rd Place - Essay Intermediate  
5th Grade

Mary L. Welty Elementary School  
Nogales Unified School District #1



## INSPIRING LEADERSHIP

I strongly believe that my dance teacher has demonstrated leadership multiple times. One example is when she set up a program called LVHD (Look into my Voice, Hear my Dance). LVHD is a collaboration of four Bharata Natyam dancers and seven survivors of sexual and domestic violence. Working together, conveyed the stories of the victims into a multilayered string of mini-performances in Bharata Natyam and a bit of Bharata Natyam. There was a feeling of unity between the performers which was strong and I could tell because I was volunteering there at the program. My dance teacher also shows us leadership when she teaches us. Not only are we taught dance, but also lessons that are applicable for the present and future. She urges us to explore the origins of Juneteenth and understand it. My dance teacher fights against sexual and domestic violence to end it in our communities. This is why I think my dance teacher exhibits leadership.

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## THE CORNER STORE WORKER

When I was in kindergarten I would visit the corner store with my father. We would go there every day when I got out of school. A man named Ricky worked there. One day, Ricky told us he was starting a t-shirt business on the side and gave me a free one.

Eventually, Ricky became close friends with my dad and me. Sometimes, he would even give us free snacks. I liked that a lot! One day, Ricky seemed very sad. When we asked him what was wrong, he said he had just found out that his son had cancer. The whole community rallied around Ricky and Kyle including my dad and me. In six months, Ricky's son, Kyle, beat cancer! We were so happy for him.

Ricky taught me many things such as "be grateful for what you have". More importantly, he modeled perseverance and positivity for the whole community. When people would ask him about Kyle, he would thank them and ask how they were doing too. When his son was well, Ricky started an annual 'fun run' to raise awareness and money for others in the neighborhood who were struggling with cancer. It became a very successful charity. Ricky did not stop there, though. He turned his attention to the homeless and now raises funds for both causes. He has helped over 100 people find housing and jobs. He is an inspiration to me.

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## I KNOW MY NAME

The world knows me as Abigail.  
My friends know me as Abby.  
My parents call me Monkey.  
But my middle name carries history.  
Did you know?

Joseph was a leader,  
As he was a mighty Partizan.  
Running across the world  
Helping the Jews hide,  
And bravely fighting the Nazis  
Without being known.

In the dead of night,  
In the piercing cold,  
Perseverance was their light.  
Joseph was fearless.  
He knew he had to be.

He fought for what is right.  
He fought for freedom  
He fought for humanity  
He fought for life.  
Now I know.

Joseph made a mark  
An impact on my life  
He saved the lives of many  
Generations that exist today  
I wish they knew his story  
Joseph Krugliak, great grandfather, is no longer with us  
But he is with me every day  
Also through my middle name  
Now you know,  
I am also Abigail Josephine Malinovitz.

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## THE MEANING OF SERVICE

My mother is flawed and imperfect; she gets angry and discouraged. But to me, she exemplifies the meaning of service. To my understanding, service is a commitment to helping others, though there are personal consequences—something that also applies to leadership. Luckily enough, I have the privilege of watching my mother regularly embody both of these concepts.

She recently started a business serving underprivileged young adults by providing free software training and internship opportunities. During her journey of making her dream into reality, I sat with her drafting innumerable grant applications and emails to potential partners. I watched her make countless calls, ending optimistically only to receive no reply the next day. I watched her crying from frustration at the seeming hopelessness, but through it all she never gave up.

She uses her experience as an immigrant and woman of color to empathize with her students, creating a safe learning environment where they can be successful. She has overcome unimaginable obstacles to attain her goal of service, but her joy at seeing her students succeed is indescribable. Her business, moreover, is not a nonprofit, yet she often runs it like one, sometimes foregoing compensation to ensure that her students receive opportunities.

My mother has earned my respect and that of many others as a leader who is not afraid to make sacrifices to serve those in her community. I have a tremendous amount of admiration for her hard work and dedication to her cause—it is truly inspirational.

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## I LIVED YOU

I had the amazing privilege of having you as a grandfather for 9 years and I inhaled every second of it.

I LIVED your immense kindness and generosity. How you brought to life, loved and cared for your family and still had overflowing love to cure the sick, comfort the despaired and nurture everyone around you. I was recently told an anecdote of how you paid for your tenants' meals when they couldn't pay you the rent money. You were our courageous lion with a lamb's heart.

I LIVED your complete and wholehearted dedication to us, your entire family. I relive those moments you assisted me with my homework and encouraged me until I succeeded. When you brought electric shocks and told me it was good for the heart but little did I know it was the worst feeling as a kid. Yet this gave me the confidence to endeavor new things and learn as much as I can.

I LIVED your inspiring humbleness. How you walked to work every day and lived only with what was essential.

I LIVED your uniqueness. While most of us make an effort to fit in, you went against the current. Your singularity was never temporary, fads and ideologies came and went while you stood firm and tall, like an oak tree in the middle of a storm. You were an eclectic concoction of adventures.

I LIVED your power. Only you could carry yourself with such lordly confidence.

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## LEADERSHIP WITHIN

An individual who has best demonstrated leadership in my life was my maternal grandfather, Wilbur Begay Sr. and he did so much for the community. He may have had some flaws but he easily overcame them with what he was able to do for the community and my family. Everyone knew him not just in our community but within other communities. He knew so much from his skill set to his Navajo culture, in which he would help do construction projects for the community and help the community through Navajo ceremonies. Not everyone was able to do what he could do at his age and he was a living example of what leadership is not just in a family but in communities.

I myself would like to follow in his footsteps to the best of my ability even though he is not my biological grandfather, but rather a role model. My siblings and I would do interscholastic activities every day after school and he was there to support us the entire time he was with us by going to every event held. Age was just a number to him and he was able to give his children, grandchild, and the community the ability of leadership as of which we have today. Sadly his time is gone and passed due to a heart attack, but his teachings still live within us. That is why there is leadership within!

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