

MY GRAMMY

My grammy is awesome! She gives things to those in need. She is so helpful. She's the president of the board of the organization, Family Promise. Family Promise works with families that are homeless or in crisis. Family Promise gave away 17,000 diapers in 7 months to mothers that can't afford it.

My grammy was on the school board for 17 years. She helped get money for a new high school in her community. I admire my grammy because she helped many people, even people she didn't know. I hope I can be like her someday and help other people.

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Elise Hale

**1st Place - Essay Primary
2nd Grade**

Franklin Accelerated Academy Brimhall Campus

Mesa Public Schools

MY NANA

My Nana is amazing. When grampa got really sick and hurt my Nana took care of him every day. She changed his band aids and helped him get clean untill he got better. My Nana is a great nurse. She took in lots of kids who needed a home and would foster them. The kids liked my Nana. She even adopted my Aunt Hannah. I love my Nana. She helps me to. I lik to play with her. She spoils her grandkids. She spoils them with treats and love. I hope I can be like her someday.

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Zac Moffat

**2nd Place - Essay Primary
2nd Grade**

Franklin Accelerated Academy Brimhall Campus

Mesa Public Schools

MY GRANDMA

My grandma is awesome! She was a school teacher. She was a respite parent. She took students on trips to places like Texas, Florida, and North Carolina beach. Grandma lived in Kentucky. The people she taught never went on trips. That's why she took them on trips. She helped them know that service is love. The kids made cards for other people. She did a chili cook off and donated the chili. She made a business. She was in the newspaper! She gave people from all around the world thank you cards. A family in Ohio got a thank you card and they sent money to my grandma and then they looked in the card and found money. They were so happy! In her class the students learned about weather and money. They had a Christmas play. She was in her 50's when she did this. Grandma finished in 2015 the year before I was born. She had 10 children. She tried to make her students feel normal. She helped them make friends. There were 3 special ed teachers. This was their favorite class. Over 50 families signed their kids up to go to that school. Grandma did this for 20 years! She loved it. She wishes she did it for free. She was also a bus driver. She sang on stage! She was only a little scared on stage because all of the people sitting in front of her. She had different classes. I love my grandma!

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Naomi Temple

**3rd Place - Essay Primary
2nd Grade**

Franklin Accelerated Academy Brimhall Campus

Mesa Public Schools

BROCCOW LEWIS IS PASSING ON HISTORY

Have you ever learned your culture with your cousin?

My cousin, Broccow Lewis makes traditional songs. He plays the flute to help people. Broccow also makes music. He sings during dances.

Medicine Man helps future mothers. Treats the soon to be mothers with medicine. He offers the unborn offerings.

The Medicine Man donates to the need. Broccow donates to orphanages and foster homes. He gives the homeless food. Broccow donates to the childrens playgrounds. Im very glad I have my cousin building and passing on our culture and history.

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Robin Lewis

**1st Place - Essay Intermediate
5th Grade**

Franklin Accelerated Academy Brimhall Campus

Mesa Public Schools

MY MOMMY

My mommy helps old people in need in their last moments of life.

She has worked in hospice her entire career. She was inspired by her grandparents to help the old. Now she helps people get care they need when they are dying even if they cannot pay for it.

She always help me, my dad, my sister, anyone who needs help. She helps people not be afraid of death and helps the hispanic community learn more about hospice on the radio and speaks to large groups of people. She helps people find hospice and makes sure people are learning about how hospice helps the family when things are hard.

She inspires me because she is a strong, brave, kind, loving leader and always tries to help others even though she is a very busy mommy.

She taught me that each and every person dies at a certain time in their life. Be thankful to be alive.

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Samantha Sanchez

**2nd Place - Essay Intermediate
3rd Grade**

**Chandler Traditional Academy Liberty
Chandler Unified School District**

LEADERSHIP THROUGH SERVICE FOR SERVICEMEMBERS

The first person I think of when I think of “leadership through service” is my friend, Margy Bons. Margy is the founder and CEO of MAM which stands for Military Assistance Mission and is the initials of US Marine Sgt. Michael Adam Marzano, Margy’s son who was killed in Iraq in 2005.

Because Margy remembered Michael asking for money for gas and food, she started MAM to honor him by helping Arizona service members, (who don’t earn much money,) pay for essentials. MAM provides money to help military families pay their mortgage, rent, utilities, auto payments, insurance and buy food. MAM also does events like Holiday Open House, where children and parents can shop for each other, for free.

The first soldier Margy helped through MAM was a man named Aaron who was injured in combat in 2005. Aaron reached out to Margy and told her that he needed surgery but he did not qualify for any financial help. As she was talking to him she heard his kids in the background who were laughing and unaware of the situation. At that moment, Margy knew she was helping more than just Aaron. She was also helping his whole family by paying their rent, buying his family food and paying for back to school shopping.

Margy has taken one mother’s grief and turned it into joy for many families. That is why I picked Margy and thank you for reading this essay.

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A SERVANT LEADER

My example of a servant leader is my friend Jordan Glasco. He is in 5th grade and he is a great role model. He is a great human and friend and here is why. He is there when a teacher wants him there. When anyone needs help he is there to help them. Jordan is a great helper in the classroom and out. He helps us make recess fair and when we need help understanding something he helps us. These are a few reasons he is an excellent role model but I will list some more. When people are sad he cheers them up, when people are being bullied he stands up for them. He is a great helper, when you ask him to do something he has no hesitation to do it. When you are down and you need someone to lift you and make you laugh, he is the guy to go to. I am not just saying this because he is my friend, he is a good friend but he doesn't do it for rewards he does it for nothing except the smile on your face. A ton of kids in our class liked to follow after Jordan because if I were younger than Jordan, so would I. Jordan is a great human I gave you several reasons why so I hope you believe me. So my answer to "Who is a servant leader that you know" is Jordan Glasco.

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Jonah Thompson

1st Place - Essay Middle
6th Grade

Sahuaro Elementary School

Washington Elementary School District #6

BUILDING HISTORY

A leader to me is my Dad. We need more people like him. He is not in it for the title or to be widely known. He is in it to help his students become leaders so that they can set an example for future generations. A leader doesn't have to be widely known, it's more than that. A leader is someone who motivates others and sets a solid example for what is right.

My dad built history because he broke the cycle of poverty in his family. See my dad didn't exactly have the perfect childhood. He didn't have a dad that he could rely on either so things were difficult for him. He was raised in a single parent household with two brothers. However, none of these things got in his way. He chose to break the cycle of poverty, go to school, and try his hardest to make sure that his future sons had a good life so that we didn't have to go through the things that he did. My dad also built history by being the first in his family to go to college and graduate, as well as get his degrees.

So in my head my dad is a great leader and we need more people like him to lead by example for the future generations so that they can build history.

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Ashton Holley

**2nd Place - Essay Middle
8th Grade**

**Andersen Junior High School
Chandler Unified School District**

A MILITARY HERO

My dad isn't perfect, but he is a leader and lives to serve people. That is what matters. He enjoys seeing people happy; seeing smiling face is what he strives for every single day. My dad changes lives and fights for our country.

In case you have not caught on already, my dad is in the military. Specifically, the US Air Force. He joined because he wanted to help our nation. He was so inclined to help, he became President of the Archer–Ragsdale chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen. Their mission is to preserve the legacy of the original Tuskegee Airmen, and encourage people to get educated.

Also, my dad has mentored people. He used to talk to young adults about their life. For example, he may help people manage finances, plan their careers, or volunteer. Firstly, managing finances is important because it helps to save money. Secondly, planning your career is crucial because if you don't, something unexpected could occur and you may not be ready. Volunteering is helpful because it is good to take care of the area around us.

I remember when my dad traveled to Japan. This was because he had to teach the airman there about combat. It was hard for him to go, but he did it because it was important to assist them. He ended up staying there for six months. When he came back, me and my family celebrated. We were glad that he was safe, and that the airmen were educated.

Heroes don't always wear a mask and cape. Not all of them need a disguise. The hero that I know has no reason to hide. A hero that inspires and is no stranger to changed lives. My dad, the hero of my life, has been right in front of my eyes. Most people only see their heroes on the news, or on social media. However, I get to live with my hero. My hero is my dad.

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MY HERO

A person in my life who displays an act of leadership through service is my godmother, Dr. Jameelah Cage. Jameelah is passionate about helping at-risk youth. She spent time working in the Juvenile. While at the juvenile she implemented new protocols that helped establish a bridge between troubled youth and juvenile correctional officers. Her current job is within police-community relations. Dr. Cage is giving back to the community she grew up in, specifically the black community, by co-founding the Dolls & Gents Drill team and Drumline. The upcoming year will be her 20th year with the Dolls. The organization aims to provide young men and women with a positive outlet for involvement throughout the community. This organization helps keep children out of the streets. Jameelah has made it possible through the group to provide free tutoring and opportunities for kids.

Throughout my childhood, my godmother has always put others' needs before her own. Whether helping someone out or jumping on the nearest flight to help a loved one, Jameelah's willingness to help is never short of notice. My mother Johnyika and Jameelah grew up together and have been friends since the second grade. Recently my mom's dad passed away from a long-time battle of cancer. During this difficult time, Jameelah's selflessness inspired me when she opened her home to my family for two weeks while we were visiting my grandfather in the hospital. She cooked us meals, helped with transportation, and was ultimately a shoulder to lean on throughout the whole time. There are an endless number of reasons Jameelah is my hero.

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Jasa Terry

**1st Place - Essay Secondary
10th Grade**

Leading Edge Academy--Gilbert Early College

LEAD Charter

A FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC'S LEGACY

sleepless night, around the clock
thick coats, pants, boots, so heavy, slows you down but you have to go *faster*
echoes of alarms, *hurry hurry hurry* every second could save
a life, so many souls, trapped in a blazing house,
walls crumbling, dragging out the family, charred bodies
take the pulse, fingers to their neck and wrists, feel for the fluttering
heartbeat, *don't you dare give up*

drowned child floating face-down in the swimming pool, blank eyes, pallid
skin, too late, no heartbeat left to salvage, *do you still carry the grief?*
fear, terror, hysterical faces, calm them down, get them to safety
always respond to the call,
break down the door, a mentally ill person with a gun, *you could have died*
and left behind six children and your wife
selflessly courageous, push on through the danger,
blaring siren, flashing red and blue lights, crimson blood,
limp people tied to stretchers, dull eyes staring up at the stars

find a diamond in a sea of glass fragments
car windshield shattered across the asphalt
desperately grateful tears, smiles, *how can i ever thank you*
because of your service, your bravery, your sacrifice
families are whole, their houses gone but their lives preserved
children grew up, lived, saved from a watery grave

the clock has slowed down, dark hair turned silvery gray
but your legacy lives on,
through us grandchildren,
the lives you saved,
and i know still that if there is ever a need,
you will always answer the call

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Lauren McDowell

2nd Place - Essay Secondary
10th Grade

Gilbert Classical Academy

Gilbert Unified School District

MY DINE' (NAVAJO) TEACHER

I am an exchange student seeking to explore
Unfamiliar lands, a world unknown,
Find solace in her teacher's rich rapport,
A leader's light, a heaven dazzling shone.

Through the lessons she taught with patience and respect,
A bridge built with connections to herself.

Her voice, a symphony of care,
Resounds with echoes of their tradition,
She shares the essence of her people's culture,
Their stories, chants, and legends that will last.

From sacred mountains, ancient spirits rise,
And dance within the classroom's vibrant space,
She is a Navajo, she has wisdom in her eyes.

Myself, a Filipino, an exchange student from the Pacific,
Absorbs all the teachings, reaching deep within,
A cultural bond, I can sense
A tapestry of oneness begins to spin.

In this exchange, a synergy revealed,
A Navajo teacher, leading by example,
Her student's mind, a fertile ground unsealed,
Our spirits, I believe, intertwined.

In the four corners of our classroom, we share a wonderful journey...
I am her student.
She is my teacher.
She is Margie Begay, a Navajo woman,
A teacher that leads hearts and minds.

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Heaven Grace Barrio

3rd Place - Essay Secondary
11th Grade

Sanders Valley High School

Sanders Unified School District