

Saige C. Abrams

"Saige, listen, I have something I need to tell you," my mother managed to stutter out in a soft voice, "It's Aunt Stacey. The cancer had spread drastically throughout her body, and she passed away about an hour ago." It wasn't much long after that when Stacey's daughter, Tammy was diagnosed with severe Cervical Cancer. Months later, Tammy joined her beloved mother in a better place, Heaven, leaving her 12 year old daughter behind. All of the tears and sorrow my family has endured caused me to appreciate what I am able to conquer. Being thankful for how lucky my family is to even be here makes me thrive to reach out and help the less fortunate. The feeling in one's soul when being able to help another family, save another life, is indescribable. As a "Straight A Student" at Diplomat Middle I am constantly doing whatever it takes to achieve my goals. Many students goals are to become a famous football player or baseball player, but mine, is to give others an opportunity to live a life such as the one I live. Seeing how rough others have it, always makes me want to help and achieve goals in our community. I organize raising money and donations for Make-A-Wish and A.C.T. I've also achieved accomplishments with the ill in my life.

To begin with, as a newly labeled "Music & Arts school" my drama class took on the responsibility to raise money and donations to enhance the last few months of a young girl's life. Little Kendi has been diagnosed with a disease that will result with her lungs collapsing. This six year old girl has made a wish to go on a Disney Cruise before she passes away. Starting only a few weeks ago, we have already received \$2,000 dollars in donations to go toward Kendi. I've spent countless hours asking around for donations, coordinating car washes, and really getting the news around to make Kendi's last days here the best they can be. At such a young age, she should create as many substantial memories as possible. As a representative of the drama program, I am granting this child's wish. No matter what it takes.

Subsequently, realizing how fortunate my family is to still be here has shown me to help others get back up on their feet when they're down. Last semester I advised our drama class to begin a fundraiser to support A.C.T. (Abuse Counseling and Treatment center). Not only did we raise hundreds of dollars, but we presented them with over 8,000 articles of clothing at our Friday night's performance of Bugsy Malone Junior. Many women and children go to this center with only the clothes on their backs. The counselors provide them guidance and help to get through the torturous memories of being beaten by their husbands or fathers. Being able to assist this center was a gift itself.

On the other note, Anthony Motwell, my neighbor, my best friend, was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy when he was five years old. He immediately was placed in a wheel chair and was destined to pass away in a few years. I took on the responsibility to help Anthony in any way possible. I've spent countless hours assisting Anthony in any way I could. I always went to the beach with him, played games with him, and just simply talked with him. I believe just brightening his day helped him hang on longer. Anthony passed away as a teen a few months ago. I will forever remember helping him hang on for as long as he did. This, by far, was the greatest feeling I've ever experienced in my life.

In summary, helping the community is what I indulge in. To me, giving back is the greatest achievement of all. I thank my aunt, cousin, and friend who are now watching over me in Heaven, for showing me how lucky I am to be here today; I thank them for inspiring me to pursue my desire to help and guide others in need.

Diplomat Middle School

8th Grade Award's Ceremony

May 22, 2008



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