

Knickerbacker Middle School
Harlem Globetrotters Essay Winners
January 2012

Jacob Winfield
Grade 6

This past fall my dad and I were playing basketball and his chest started to hurt. He made an appointment to go to the doctors. It was then we found out that he had blockage in his heart. My dad had to have a quadrupal bypass surgery. My mom and I were very scared and sad that he had to go in for an operation.

My mom and I talked about how we had to be strong for my dad. We were going to try to keep him happy and not worried. Over the course of time, my mom had her friends come over to keep us company and support our family.

A couple of days before my dad's operation my mom and I brought him balloons and a coffee. We wanted to cheer him up and make him smile. He was so happy. He became even happier because he got to see the rest of his family and friends. That day he knew how many people cared about him.

His operation was a success, but he still has to go to doctor visits. We will be facing side effects because of the operation but we will be ready. One side effect was my mom was by herself with the bills. Happily, now my dad is better enough to go back to work.

Now that he is feeling better he has been bringing me to CYO basketball games. He always cheers me on which makes me smile. Bringing happiness to my dad was a wonderful thing to do. My mom and I are both so happy he is better now. It would bring all of us happiness to go to see the Harlem Globetrotters!

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Gabby Gilligan
Grade 6

“Harlem Globe Trotters Essay”

I always try to make one person smile every day. I'll never forget the day I made my great grandmother smile. It was summer and I would usually go to summer camp. Then I realized my great grandma was going to be staying home alone all week!

Instead of summer camp, I stayed with her because I didn't want her to be alone. Everyday we would make our breakfast and sit down and eat. One day I painted her nails a beautiful Barbie pink. It was then that I realized that the smallest thing I did for her, made her happy! I sat down and listened to her while she talked. She told me stories of when she was a kid and how different the world is today.

At first I honestly thought it was going to be boring but it really wasn't. Even if they were, I would still care about what she has to say. Since she is getting older, she gets sick a lot, so I loved to see her smile. The happiness I got to share with her was the best feeling I ever had.

Spending that time with my great-grandmother, and making her smile again was way better than going to summer camp, all because I got to share happiness with her. In conclusion, I got to make my great-grand mother smile again.

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Kennedy Teta
Grade 6

Do you think you are a helpful person? I have always considered myself to be helpful. I help my parents with my younger sister. I do my chores around the house, and I help my friends with their school work. These are just a few gestures I do to help others. I don't do these things for myself, I do them to make other people happy.

One gloomy Saturday afternoon I decided to go through the clothes in my closet. I was going to give the clothes that didn't fit me away to my mom's friend's daughter. She is two years younger than me so my old clothes fit her perfectly. My older sister Logan and I share a room so I asked her to help me.

We went upstairs and opened our closet. As I walked in I realized that this may take awhile; there were a lot of clothes. My sister and I decided to make a game plan; I would go through the shirts and she would go through the pants.

Going through my clothes took a little over an hour. I found so many of my old clothes that I forgot I had. Looking at them brought back so many memories, some happy and some sad. I knew giving these clothes away would bring someone memories of their own. In the end we ended up with about 15 shirts and 5 pairs of pants.

The next day my mom drove me to the girls house to give her the clothes. Her name is Zoe and I have known her since she was born. When I gave Zoe the clothes she got the biggest smile on her face. "Thank you so much Kennedy!" she said. I could tell that she was really happy and excited to get my clothes.

From that day on I knew that helping others would bring happiness. Not only was Zoe happy, but I was happy as well. It brought me joy to see how excited Zoe was.

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Gerald Arroyo
Grade 7

The National Center for Children in Poverty says that, "We live in the world's wealthiest nation, yet 13 percent of people living in the United States live in poverty. In 2009, 43.6 million (14.3 percent) were in poverty. In 2009, 8.8 million families were in poverty." Have you ever helped a child in need of clothing? This is important because there are many people that need help in the world.

One day I was in my room watching television. My mom said, "I need you to clean out your closet and pick out all of the clothes that don't fit you."

I said, "Don't throw them away, why don't you send it to the Dominican Republic, they don't have any clothes."

My mom said "Ok, then we will send it over to the Dominican Republic." We left our house with a truck full of clothes, and then we went to the Salvation Army to deliver the clothes so that it would be sent over to the Dominican Republic. My mom wanted to send the clothes, but she only had \$100 to pay for it. She needed more and I told her that I had money in my pocket. I was going to save the money that I had so I could buy an XBOX. I saved it from my allowance, but I knew that there were people out there who needed it more than I did. So I told my mom, "Take the money to pay for the cost of the clothes." They had to weigh the clothes, and it cost \$350. We paid the cashier the money and it was ready to be shipped off to the Dominican Republic.

A few months later, we received a letter saying "Thank you very much for your help to children in need." It also came with a shirt from the Salvation Army. I was very proud of myself. I started to cry when they sent me a picture of the children wearing my old clothes. I told my mom that every year I am going to give away my toys, clothes, and shoes. I will grow up and have kids of my own one day, and when their clothes don't fit them, I will teach them to help people in need.

I always felt bad if saw someone sleeping outside covered up with news paper like a blanket. I like to help them and make them feel better. I am a person who could sometimes be bad, but deep down inside I have a kind and good heart. I care about people who don't have a family like I did when I was born. I never saw my mom because she passed away from an overdose. Since I was a little kid growing up, I would always cry because I didn't have a family, so I want to help other kids have a family and feel better about themselves like I did. That's why it is important to help children in need.

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Ki'Son Hoke
Grade 8

Times of Pain Made into Joy

Have you ever wondered what it is like to go through years and years of pain and still being able to make your loved one happy? There is a mother that has five kids and no father to show them how to grow up as a man and to show them how to be responsible. They managed to make it out of the depression because the kids got older and told their mom, "It's ok we will always be here no matter what, even without a super hero otherwise known as a dad."

The five kids are all older now but as young boys they never had a father figure so I had to show them how to do things and what to do and what not to do. To them I was their idol, but really I was just being the big brother I was supposed to be. Around twelve years old I had to go out and find a job or a way to make money of my own to help out the family my mother was so proud every day there was another thing I did to make her happy. For example, there was one night when my aunt had called and told us that she had brain cancer. Once she had told us that we all had a pain that could not be fixed and about a year later she was still alive fighting it and I went go go see her day by day making her food and keeping her healthy she was so proud of the fact that I didn't give up on her. That made my mom so proud she even gave up the little bit of money she had to give me bus fare so I can continue doing what I was doing.

On my birthday instead of using the money I got on me I decided to put it towards the rent so all the struggle wouldn't be all on my mom. She told me every day she was lucky to have a son like me because I was always there through good times and bad times to make sure my family was ok and that's why I always received love from them. Everyone was happy for me but my mom was the most. Once I turned 13 we had a step dad my mom and him wasn't married or anything but he was such a help that we called him a step dad but he got into some trouble so I continued doing what I did best and that's making my mom happy.

Maybe one day I will have kids of my own and do the same for them because there was a saying my mom always told me in the time of need, "Family always come first." This is how my life went and how I made someone happy and this is how everyone should at least try to do. Not everyone has a father figure so for those who don't keep your heads up.