



This is how living with my Grandma, Grandpa, Milly and Sudi has affected my life. Milly is a cat that Grandma got for me. Milly is a comfort for me. When I go to bed she helps me fall asleep. Grandpa fixed my bike and he fixed my drawer when it was broken. He made me Saturday breakfast on Friday because I was not going to be there on Saturday. My grandma makes me breakfast on a school day even though she said she will make hot breakfast on the weekends only. My grandma also got me a dog named Sudi; she is nice dog. Even when my cat attacks Sudi's tail she feels it but does not get angry. In the summer we go on a road trip so I have seen many places in Canada and all over the United States. These are the things that make living with my Grandma, Grandpa, Milly and Sudi so special to me.

Thomas
Age 11



Living with Gramma and Grampa

I have 2 sisters and live with my grandma and grampa. Mom is also part of the family but she doesn't live here. When me and my sisters lived with her, she took drugs. She figured out it was too dangerous for us to live there so she took us to her friend's house while she was in treatment. It wasn't good there. They were abusive. We finally got to go to our grandma's house. We had a good time after that. About 2 years later grandma and grampa adopted us. Grampa's grumpy but really loves us, and grandma is nice, the best grandma anyone could have. We sometimes go fishing with grampa. Also grampa is a really good cook. He's trying to teach us his tricks. And thanks to grandma and grampa I have a good social and physical lifestyle. Grandma teaches us good manners and how to be proper. They let me and Xena play baseball. They won't give us everything we want, but we always get everything we need. After eight years we know we are loved and have a forever home in their hearts. Thank you grandma and grampa for helping keep this family close together.

Chance

Age 12



I have a large family who loves me a lot. I have aunts, uncles, cousins, brothers, grandparents and even a great grandma. I know they all love me because my grandparents took me from going to foster home. I'm glad I got to stay with my brother longer than it would be if we had both gone to foster homes. Ever since the day my grandparents took me I get to do fun stuff like go to the movies, play video games, and do big bear hugs with my brother. I love my grandparents for taking us from having to go to foster homes. THIS IS WHY I LOVE MY FAMILY SOOOO MUCH!!!!

Chrislee Hope
Age 9



Living with my grandparents made a positive difference in my life because they make me three meals a day. When I am sick they stay home and take care of me. When I have a bad dream they let me sleep with them. When I get hurt they put the medicine and a bandage on the cut. We sometimes go to a restaurant like Chinese or go to the movies. They also help me with my homework. That is why living with my grandparents made a positive difference in my life.

**Izabel
Age 10**



My Story

The Seahawk's Quarterback, Russell Wilson, once said "Why not us?" and I think for me to achieve in life, "Why not me?"

When my brothers and I first moved here, we didn't have much but over time I noticed that we always have clean clothes, delicious food to eat and a strong roof over our heads. Some things we do as a family that a lot of other families don't do, is eat at the dinner table together. This is important because we can say our prayers.

After a few years of living here in such a great home, our grandparents found our half sister that we had never seen before. She is an adult now but that's ok and she is trying to go into the Navy.

Some days we don't do much. We relax and some days we are hyperactive, like going to the Farmer's Market or going to Wal-Mart or smaller stores like Walgreen's and Safeway.

When there are times when I feel sad, I think about living here, a wonderful, free house where I can do anything unless I can't and to see how much I have is a gift like a gift that will never go away.

Other times I wonder about my Mom. How she is doing, feeling or if she's thinking about us. My Grandpa and Grandma say that she is doing fine, but still I wonder, is she?

Overall, I love living here and I love my grandparents!

Noah
Age 12



Liveing with my Grandma and Grandpa made a positive diffrence in my life because they help me through time by feeding me, loveing me, and teaching me to learn about my future. They helped me feel important in my life and made me apart of there family.

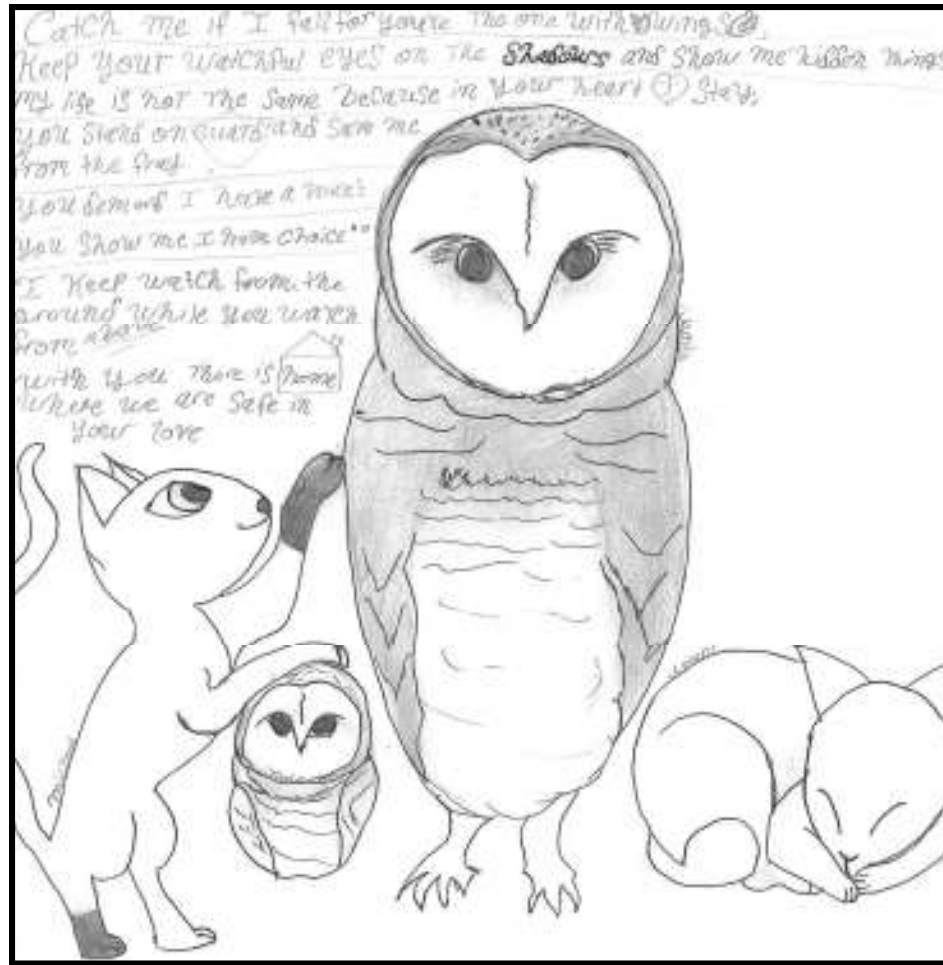
these are all the reasons they made a positive diffrence in my life.



Sevon
Age 10



Entries of Merit : Ages 13-19



Amaris
Age 19



Hello! My name is Daniel. I am 16, I live with my grandmother, and I go to [Redacted] High school. From when I was born to the age of six, I never had a steady home. I went back and forth between Nebraska and Washington. I never really lived in a "suitable" environment, so I was moved to live with my grandma Lori. She was a bit unsure of me at first and I felt the same, though it was virtually a surprise but we learned to love each other. My grandma's low tolerance for school has helped me get good grades and considerably great hand writing for a left handed individual. I never had a father, but my grandma's sternness and "rough tough" attitude made up for that. She gave me a good home to live in and food to help me grow into the person I am today. If I was in the environment of when I was little, I would probably be doing drugs or in jail. My grandma was a one man crew who helped me be successful in life, and she did it

Daniel
Age 16



Hayden
Age 14



Not Easy, Not Hard

My life is not easy

My life is not easy because I don't know my real dad
but it is not hard because I have a father who really cares and loves
me

My life is not easy because I don't have a mom who can take care of
me
but it is not hard because I have a loving family who cares a lot about
me

My life is not easy because my mom is a drug addict and hides it
but it is not hard because I have a family I can trust and open up to

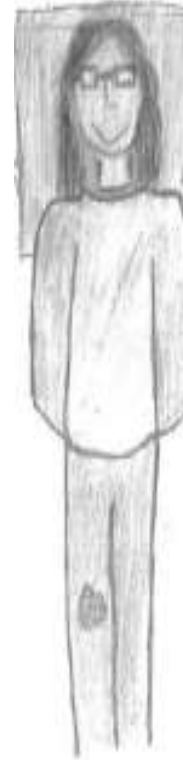
My life is not easy but I know I won't have the worst life,
Because my life is about what I make it and I choose to make it the
best it can be.

Xena
Age 14



Roses are red vilets are blue, you are a very special someone I love very much!

This picture in the right bottom corner is when grandma getting her license after her other license expired. She was putting her makeup on to get ready for her picture for her drivers license. When she was done and put her makeup away. They called her number she went up and got ready for her license. When she fixed her hair and got in her pushen to take her picture. When she gotten ready the person took her picture then she waited for her license. And when they called her number for her drivers li-cense. She got her license we went to the car and left.



Fayette
Age 13



My Life

Living with my grandparents has meant so much to me and my brothers life. They feed us and keep a roof over our head no matter how bad they struggle financially. Every day I come home to some food to eat and a warm bed. Back when I lived with my Mom I was never really told what I could or could not eat. I was very chunky as a kid like many but mine was over the average. I ate when I was bored, I ate when I was tired and I ate when I was depressed.

I still miss my mother a lot but I know that I'm in a better place now.

I've always wanted to play football as a kid but never could because my Mom was either sleeping and had no car or she had no money.

I was lucky that I came here and lived with Grandma and Grandpa and that they made sure I was happy. Since living here my grades have gone up dramatically. I know now how important school is if you care enough to want to be successful in older life. The better your education is the better your money will be. That will be great right, but no one said school was easy. Matter of fact, it's quite hard, especially for me because of how I grew up.

I was never told how to live my life and what I should do in school. I pretty much did what I pleased. Luckily though, I never got in too much trouble. I've learned my lesson from all of the things I did as a younger kid now knowing that if I did those things I would be in so much trouble with the law. My grandparents taught me everything I need to know on what life is like and how I should react. I love living here and I have so many friends now and people that care for me, wish it would have been that way from the start. It's weird seeing people caring so much because I was not use to that before.

It's hard to see your family getting ripped apart only because you Mom's special bad choices. It's killing me now remembering the struggles as a child. Living here isn't easy but it sure is great.

Now in today's life I have to worry about finding a job so I can help out this family that I am living with now. I need to find a good way to make money so I can afford a car.

I'm happy where I'm at and I'm kind of glad things changed.

Kameron
Age 15