Showing Leadership

I think my Grandma Vicki shows leadership by going on missions called Operation Smile. Operation Smile is when Vicki travels all around the world helping people with a cleft lip. She and her crew do operations to make better smiles. After an operation people go home feeling better and knowing that they have a new and better smile.

On one special occasion my grandma helped a little boy named Thanh Ngan. Thanh Ngan was just a baby but people treated him differently and his parents didn’t appreciate it. He and his parents traveled many places until they finally found Operation Smile. When Thanh was done with the operation he had a better smile and his parents were pleased.

Here are some things I think is important that she does. First of all I think it is important that she helps many people. Secondly it makes people feel like they’re a normal person. Thirdly people get treated better by other people. That is why I think my grandma shows leadership through service and I am proud to be her grandchild.

When I get older I hope that I can be a doctor for the poor. When people come to me for help I won’t charge them anything. I will also try and get others to help me and donate things such as food, water, and clothing. That is how I would show leadership through service.
Mom

My Nana died 6 years ago from breast cancer. My mom misses her very much. Every year on Nana's birthday, my mom does something for someone else, since Nana is not here to give a present to. One year my mom helped the cancer patients in the hospital. She sang to them and gave them a c.d. Another year my mom walked 60 miles and earned $12,500 to help find a cure for cancer. I miss my Nana very much. I am just glad my mom keeps her memory alive by doing kind things for others.
My mom shows leadership because she helps people in need. She goes to Sunshine Acres where you help kids. Sunshine Acres has homes for kids. It has a pottery place where you get to paint a plate or sculpture. There is a playground for the kids and the people who work there.

My mom decided to shred meat for the people who live there. Then our family put it on the table. After that our family ate with them. Later we bought ice cream to eat too.

My mom shows leadership because she takes care of me and helps other people that need help. I think a good leader helps and cares for people in the community. Good leaders also do things that are dangerous for our community or country such as people in the army.

I think that friendship is better than gold. I would teach people to be nice to each other. The next thing I would do is teach them to love each other and not just leave out one person. I will teach these things by having classes at a park. That is how I would make my community better.

“This is student work, transcribed as the student presented it.”
Mrs. Ehret Helps Poem

My teacher, Mrs. Ehret helps others soooo much. . . .
Supporting teachers with discipline problems by telling stories or working with small children who misbehaved,
Assisting student helpers from her classroom shelving books in our school library for our librarian, Mrs. Mann
Donating forty boxes of Crayola crayons yearly to several Pêna primary teachers
Helping students plan and prepare lessons for teaching science to our primary buddies
Playing and introducing games to parents at our school’s parents nights for literacy and math
Teaching grant writing classes so other teachers can obtain funds
Volunteering as an Odyssey of the Mind Coach and/or Judge

Mrs. Ehret helps the community every year by. . .
Serving as a state Altruistic chairperson, organizing, and preparing for 200 birthday gift bags for girls at Mingus Mountain (a residential program for troubled girls)
Organizing performances by students at a local Alzheimer nursing home
Donating canned food to the West Side Food bank and had students organizing a food drive
Bestowing clothing for newborn babies at Surprise hospital
Contributing to Cancer summer camp for kids and the burn center
Volunteering as an officer for an honorary teacher sorority
Presenting stuffed teddy bears for Peoria Fire Department
Donating underwear to Pêna Elementary
Walking one mile for Phoenix Race for the Cure for two years in a row!

Mrs. Ehret following Martin Luther King Jr.’s footsteps!
Thanks for making a difference!

“*This is student work, transcribed as the student presented it.*”
“Beyond the Dream: picture your Potential”

My brother Alexander is a good person he is 19 years old. He loves sports and helping others. He used to go to Red Mountain High School. He helps handicap he also went to a club where you help children that are mentally challenged, he also tells rilly funny jokes and stories. Alexander also helps me with my homework when I get stuck. Alex also helps his friends and family. I love that he is around he not like other teenagers that are alwas out of the house. I like it when we go and ride qwads and dirt bikes with me. He also helps my mom in the house and helps my stepdad in the garage fixing cars. I think he is going to be a machinic when he gets a job. He never lies or hurts anybody. He is really caring and responsible. All he does is volunteers his time to others. He tells me never to do drugs and steal from others. He also sais not get tatoos. He goes to church a lot and prays for others. I think he is a good brother and a good man.
Beyond the Dream: Picture Your Potential

A man who makes a difference at our church and in the community is Pete Buckles. Pete is the man who helps to build supplies and decorations for us at the church. He has served in the army for 24 years and has worked in many positions like criminal investigation, he has also been to Hawaii, Germany, and many other places. When anyone is sick, me for example, he sends you a postcard. He is always thinking of ways to make you feel better. Once a year Pete helps to build houses in Mexico for those in need of a home. When he helps in Mexico he has a good time and gets the job done. Meanwhile, we are here in Mesa and we miss him because of his great humor. Pete is always making jokes which makes him so much fun. Besides, the jokes when there is a dilemma it’s Pete to the rescue. When there’s a job to be done nobody at our church can do it better than him. When he is around you see him with a measuring tape and drill. He helps us decoration for Summer Explosion (vacation bible school) every year. Pete never lets us down and he cares for everyone whether you are good or have made a mistake in your life. Without him helping us decorate, build supplies and helping the families in Mexico, we wouldn’t have the things we have now. If we didn’t have Pete’s helpfulness and humor I don’t know what we would do, he is definitely a man beyond the dream.
Someone Who Inspires Me

My grandma Mimi inspires me. She is 73 years old and plays tennis for charity! She is also one of the nicest people in the world. She has played for many charities such as, Make-a-Wish, Susan G Coleman for the cure and any others. Because she and my grandfather live in Florida they have many opportunities to attend charitable events including walk-a-thons and banquets. Mostly the events they attend events involving tennis. My grandma motivates me to always to my best in school, as well as sports. She showed me, by playing tennis for charity, that there are many ways you can help your community through athletics. She was thrilled when I completed the Pat Tillman run. This benefitted programs the Pat Tillman foundation provides to children in need. My grandpa and grandma don’t stop at tennis; they even do little things such as separating their aluminum cans and donating them to their local animal shelter. And they also support their local theatre by attending various plays and forums. My grandma helped to start a local nature preserve in Racine, Wisconsin called River Bend. She also helped to start a local nursing school in the area as well. Along with all these things they always seem to be there for me at my cross-country races, soccer games, and track meets. I love my grandma and grandpa they teach me that little things you do for the community can impact so much more than you think. From learning all of this, I am inspired to participate in more races for charity and to volunteer at our local animal shelter.
An Everyday Hero

When most people think of a hero, they think of someone famous like Barrack O’Bama, Tiger Woods, or even Superman. Those are well known heroes, but there are unknown heroes that we should recognize. One unknown hero is Jorge Munoz, a man from Jackson Heights, New York. His daytime job is an average bus driver, but at 9:30 PM, he becomes one of our everyday hero’s.

Every night Jorge Munoz brings a truck full of food, coffee, and hot chocolate to the unemployed and homeless people in New York. For some of the people it is the only food they have had all day. He seems to enjoy giving out food to those that need it. He said that these people reminded him of himself only a mere twenty years ago when he moved here from Columbia. He estimated that he has served more than 70,000 meals for people in the last 4-5 years.

Jorge Munoz started his program called An Angel in Queens in the summer of 2004. When he started, large amounts of food were donated from restaurants with excess food. At first, he made meals 3 times a week. In the next few months he gave out 20 home cooked meals a night. Now he serves around 140 meals a night. It was hard for him to get his organization going, but now he reached his goal to feed many of the unemployed and homeless people in his area.

I think it’s important to recognize everyday heroes. He has inspired me to do something special for people in need, like start a canned food drive. I hope his story and every other like it inspires ordinary people like us to do extraordinary things for people in need.
Have you ever noticed how many injured animals there are in the world? Have you ever realized that all we do is complain? “BEEP, BEEP, BEEP!” The alarm clock roared in Mr. Bodznick’s ear as he sluggishly yawns and wakes up. He quickly gets ready for his day by gathering up all the foster animals and from his house and loads them into his car for the drive to Arcadia High School. You see as you probably predicted he fosters homeless, sick, and injured local animals.

Weezer, a fragile baby kitten who has major breathing problems that makes him unadoptable. If it wasn’t for Mr. Bodznick little Weezer would be dead. Every day he lets these animals like little Weezer tag along since he can leave them alone all day. They wonder around the classroom, as long as the students don’t get distracted. This why these poor animals get tender love, and care. It’s a win win situation.

Mr. Bodznick is a brilliant school teacher, and in order to pass his class students must give time to their community. He thinks it is important to teach his students how to be good responsible citizens.

I think Mr. Bodznick is a hero because he handles rescue lizards, birds, cats, and dogs not because he wants to look good, but because knows that it’s right in his heart. Thank you Mr. Bodznick!
Imagine having to sit through your 12-year old brother’s funeral. Imagine a week later being told that you have the same disease that your brother just died from. Imagine going through a countless number of operations just so you can live. Imagine a doctor telling you that you will probably not be able to walk again in your life. Now imagine after all of this happening to you trying to not only live life but also having a positive attitude and remaining optimistic about your future. I know someone has done all of this and more.

My friend Elliot was diagnosed with the rare life threatening disease Adrenoleukdystrophy when he was only 11 years of age. He has gone through more challenges, such as bone marrow transplants and kimo therapy, then most people do in their lives. Despite all that he has gone through, Elliot is the most optimistic and inspirational person I know. Every summer Elliot, now 15, travels around the country going to summer camps and retreats with illnesses such as his giving motivational speeches and helping other kids in need. Elliot and his father have also created a baseball league for physically and mentally disabled young children allowing them to participate in an activity that is usually not available for disabled children.

Elliot views his handicap not as a disability, but as an opportunity to help other people succeed. This trait makes him my hero. Just like Martin Luther King helped motivate African-Americans realize that the color of their skin was not something that made them any less equal then other people, Elliot motivates young kids realize that their handicap is not something that makes them any different from any other child.

“This is student work, transcribed as the student presented it.”
Dr. King’s Dream Today

In August of 1963, Dr. King gave an inspirational speech about his dreams and hopes for the future. The speech was mostly regarding the freedom of slaves and right to be equal for all men in America. In parts of the speech Dr. King talks about people showing leadership to make a better world. Now a days, I rarely see people taking leadership to make a better place because they want to. Once in a while, I see people showing leadership in my community.

Recently I have seen an older man showing leadership by cleaning up the world. One afternoon I saw this man going around our neighborhood picking up bits and pieces of trash. He was very enthusiastic and smiling the whole time he was performing the service. A few days later, I saw the same man picking up trash, this time he was with a group of young children. The children were smiling and laughing as they helped out this man. Now it is fairly common to see the man with a group of children walking about picking up trash in the neighborhood.

This man is demonstrating leadership through service by volunteering to clean up the environment and by becoming a role model for young children. His kind and caring nature makes him an ideal leader for children. His endurance helps the children understand the importance of what they are doing. People like this elderly man, carry out Dr. King’s dream about leadership through service every day.
Not Only a Teacher, but a Friend & Mentor

Freshman year in high school is difficult and stressful. Ms. Barb Wissmann is well aware of this as she teaches English 1 Honors. Last year I took Ms. Wissmann’s class at my school.

There were nights last year that I sat at home at ten o’clock at night in my pajamas freaking out over an essay that was due in two hours. This was not working, I asked Ms. Wissmann for help. She gave everyone her home phone number on the first day of school, which I was reluctant to call for help, but once I did, it helped. Not only was she available for help over the phone at night, but she was in her classroom in the mornings, after school, and sometimes at lunch. The days that she could not have help sessions, she would still offer help over email. I could draft an essay at night and email it to her. The next day when I came home from school, or sometimes even when I woke up, I would have an edited version of my essay waiting for me in my inbox.

She assisted me with English, and with my life. Her class always made a terrible day better. She cheered me up and encouraged me to keep on working. Maybe it was one of her famous quotes like “you’re still a wonderful person”, or just her sense of humor. She is the only teacher I have had who connects with her students. She watches the same television shows and reads the same books as her students, which she then incorporates into her class. She is the one who convinced me to sign up to help with Special Olympics, and introduced me to the reality television show “The Amazing Race”, which I now watch with my dad every Sunday night. My freshman year would not have been as successful without the help, support, and encouragement of Ms. Wissmann.

She influenced my life by teaching me how to write and therefore express myself. Thanks to her, I made new friends, and learned how to manage my time. I plan on continuing using the methods of organization...
that she taught me, and keep on improving my writing. As well as helping kids with disabilities in the Special Olympics.

“This is student work, transcribed as the student presented it.”