Leadership: Doing the Right Thing

My neighbor shows leadership because he is a police officer. He travels to Guatemala to help people stay healthy. He helps give people medicine so they do not get sick. He makes furniture like tables for their homes.

Mr. Hermos gives people healthy food. He gives water to people so they can stay hydrated. He also gives people fruit like apples and bananas. My neighbor has pomegranates on a tree so he gives the people them too.

What he does is important. The most important thing he does is to keep people alive. Another important thing he does is to help people stay healthy. Lastly, he thinks that people should not get sick so he brings some medicine.

My dream is to be a missionary. I will help people live and stay healthy. I will give them oranges and peaches. I’ll make beds and houses so they will be happy. This is how I plan to show leadership.

Micah Vasey, 1st grade, Bios Christian Academy

This is student work, transcribed as the student presented it.
**How You Show Leadership**

I have a friend who is a missionary and she helps other people in other countries. She fills bottles of water for them so they can drink good water. Then she brings rice and beans for them so they can eat. She makes boxes filled with toys for them to play with. She is even a teacher in other countries and she helps them learn. She teaches them songs in sign language. She also teaches Spanish in a building. They learn how to read too. I think being a missionary is important because other people need lots of help. It is good because people go help others. When they are hurt people will come and care for them.

When I grow up I want to be a missionary because I can help other people.

E'lon Still, 2\(^{nd}\) grade, Bios Christian Academy

This is student work, transcribed as the student presented it.
Keeping Our Earth Clean

My mom and I show leadership through service. We try to keep our earth clean. First, we walk around in our community and pick up trash. We do it every day. We go and pick up trash in different places. We put it in a trash bag. Now our community looks nice.

Second, we clean our school. My mom and I work together. We help my teacher. I clean tables with my mom after school. We want my school to look pretty.

My mom and I show leadership through service by keeping our earth clean so others can do it too.

Ashlynn Kooima, 2nd grade, Bios Christian Academy
Leigh’s Blankies

I think my mom’s friend Andra shows leadership in so many ways. I love what she does for the orphanage because she makes blankies for the children. She started making blankies for the children because her friend died in a car accident while she was on her way to adopt a child. Andra delivers the blankies to the orphanage and makes sure every kid gets a blankie.

One time she went to Malawi and gave her favorite blankie to a kid who had a wheelchair. First of all when she went to Malawi she adopted two little girls. When she gave blankies to the children they would run to their beds and lay their blankies on their beds and lie down on them. While they were waiting for the blankies they had to fold their hands and be patient.

I think her job is important because she takes time out of her life to help others. Secondly, she does not go to just one orphanage she goes to several. Now that she has more people involved it’s easier for her to provide more blankies.

My dream is to help Andra and give blankies to orphanages. I could also sew with them which would be fun. It would be great to go overseas and talk to the people about what we’re doing. I would love to play with all the kids at the orphanage. I can’t wait to grow up and help all the children.

Faith Pikula, 3rd grade, Bios Christian Academy
The Most Amazing Sister

I have the most wonderful sister in the world! Her name is Mercedes! She is the best because she is a leader in school. In school she helps with tutoring. When a student needs help with homework they tell the counselor and the counselor schedules a time with my sister. She also did Relay for Life. She has been the president of Relay for Life and she has done it for two years! Mercedes did N.J.H.S. She has been in N.J.H.S for two years. One time Mercedes did a autism walk through school. Mercedes has also done student council. She started in fourth and has been in many different positions.

Mercedes loves playing fast-pitch softball. She hurt her elbow pitching and had to have surgery two years ago. She loves it so much that she started coaching little league softball while recovering from surgery. She went through training for umpiring and has umpired many games. My sister loves helping out younger girls in the softball world!

Mercedes is a good example for me. She has helped raise money for kids with autism and many people with cancer. Mercedes demonstrates compassion and caring for others by serving in many areas. I want to be like my sister when I grow up. I love my sister!

Miriah Montoya, 3rd grade, Franklin NE
My Dad

My dad is a great leader because he served in many countries. My dad serves in many children who do not have homes. Dad went to Haiti, Africa and India to help little kids. First dad went to Haiti. Dad started a feeding program for little kids. My dad helped kids in the orphanage. He also built a second floor in the church.

Second dad went to Africa. Dad also helped in the orphanage in Africa too. He gave the kids lots of love. Dad helped in the slums with little kids.

Third dad went to India. Dad worked in the orphanage in India too. Dad taught kids about God. He also to Mother Theraces. He helped the sick and dying. Dad gave money to the people who did not have homes.

My dad is a leader he helped Haiti, Africa and India. I want to be like my dad when I grow up.

Anna Scholink, 3rd grade, Bios Christian Academy
Wings for Women

My aunt, Nadia Valle, shows good leadership in service to her community. She founded an organization called *Wings for Women*. This program provides transitional housing for homeless women and their children who have been left with no support system. The organization helps women by providing them with housing, information, skills, and tools necessary for them to succeed.

This all started one day when my aunt was watching TV and she saw an interview about a woman in Los Angeles, California, who founded rehabilitation centers for women. My aunt told herself that she wanted to do something like that for the women here in Tucson, and she did. Many people think about doing something good for others, but they don’t do it. My aunt on the other hand took action and went on to create an organization that helps the women of Tucson in need.

For the past two years she has had many fundraisers to help the organization. She has been on shows like KVOA News 4, The Morning Blend, and has also been interviewed by the Arizona Daily Star promoting the organization’s goals. She shows good leadership in her work, because without her drive and direction these women would have no help or hope for the future. She is positive with these women and that gives them encouragement for what lies ahead of them. Through her leadership she has helped women find housing and has given them hope for the future.

Estevan LaTurco, 7th grade, Dodge Middle School
A Good Leader

One of the people that really shows leadership throughout their community is my dad. He always wants everyone to have the best life possible. My dad also believes that he should help people in his community that don’t really have a good life. An example of this would be when he wakes up at 6:00 a.m. and gets ready to go to St. Phillips Church to make around 1,500 sandwiches for the homeless. Remember, these homeless people get only around three meals a week so when they get their two sandwiches, they feel so happy and joyus.

Another thing that my dad does that shows great leadership is that he runs a huge fundraiser every year that benefits three different TUSD schools. A lot of the kids at these three schools are poor and feel like no one really cares about them. When each school gets about $10,000 to use for new computers, white boards, or other supplies, the poor kids at these schools feel so blessed and thankful. This shows how my dad really believes that people who are struggling in life deserve to be helped. My dad really demonstrates leadership throughout his community.

Dylan Pavon, 7th grade, Dodge Middle School
A True Leader

Some people hold the door open for someone else, or tell them shoe is untied. For Brittani Rusnak these are everyday steps in her life. Brittani has a very rare disease, and she is fighting through the pain at only twelve years old. She says doing community service helps her feel better and distracts her from the reality pain. As long as I have known her, she tries to be a leader with everything she does. She stands out to lead the community with a bright smile on her loving face everyday.

Brittani is always ready to help somebody else, and she will not sit down until we are feeling like stars. Whether by e mail, text, or phone call, or talking face to face, Brittani tries hard to get her neighbors, friends, family and classmates to assist her in leading the community. Brittani always tells me that we may not always have great days, but something great happens everyday. I know when I am with her, this is true. Brittani is a soccer referee, and a member of the Feed My Starving Children food packaging. She is always looking to do so much service even when she physically cannot. She may only be just a child, but I know Brittani will grow up to be even more of a leader than she is now. I think Brittani is the best example of a true leader in any community, and stands trying to be one.

Jenah Park, 6th grade, Franklin NE
Not Just an Ordinary Hero

Strong, brave, influential, and courageous are all words commonly used to describe a hero. However, nobody truly knows the meaning of these words until meeting Danielle. She was a normal teenage girl who led a normal teenage life. In her spare time, she would bead bracelets and sell them for money which she would donate to different charities. At only 13 years of age, this little girl was donating large sums of money to Cancer foundations and other funds. However, in August of 2003, Danielle was diagnosed with a brain tumor. This 13 year old girl who had only been concerned with others for her whole life was now put in a life-threatening condition. But that did not stop her. Even after losing her vision completely and facing many other disabilities, Danielle kept making bracelets and donating all of her earnings to charity. At such a young age, she could have easily given up. No matter how sick or upset she was feeling, she still made the bracelets and helped brighten the days of other. Now, at 18 years old, nothing can stop Danielle. She is strong in the way that she has never given up. Brave because she has overcome so much to be where she is today. The way she influences everyone around her can be seen clearly. Her courage is like that of no other person I have ever met. Danielle is the biggest hero I know, and the best cousin I could ask for.

Rachel Slepian, 10th grade, Chaparral High School

This is student work, transcribed as the student presented it.
Why do bad things happen to good people? This question continues to riddle society. But I have an answer. Good people handle bad things by taking reigns over their pains, and turning bad experiences into learning experiences. When my sister Chelsey went through hell, she returned stronger. Because of her experiences, she is able to help others avoid the same costly mistakes she made.

Chelsey was date raped at the age of 14. Refusing to tell anyone and denying the occurrence, life only got worse. Masking the pain was the easiest fix. But it didn’t work. Emotional scars turned into physical scars. Facing reality was too hard; Chelsey found comfort in the arms of alcohol. Drugs were her reality.

A wake up call, the long road to recovery brought about positive changes. Chelsey stopped using drugs to cure her brokenness. Now, several years after the pain, my sister has partnered with an organization called NotMyKid. Traveling all around the state, she speaks to teens about safe dating and making positive life choices. Chelsey has also worked with Yellow Rose Film Company to create a documentary about sexual abuse. On screen, on stage, and in life, Chelsey continues to make use of her abuse. Encouraging others to speak out on sexual abuse, Chelsey’s story and service has enriched the lives of the community.

Bad things will always happen to good people. As for my sister, she chose to benefit from the bad. Like a phoenix rising from ashes, Chelsey has made beauty from pain.

Chloe Martin, 12th grade, Bios Christian Academy
Shoes for Orphans

Imagine waking up every day, surrounded by hundreds of kids in a hot room with flies swarming your face and no air conditioning. You would get up, wait in line to use the restroom, attend school, and then go play outside on the scorching hot ground, barefoot. This is the life Kaitlin Lang lived for two weeks while volunteering at the Sri Ashram orphanage in India. After returning home to Arizona, Kaitlin, a driven tenth grader at the time, decided to make a change in the world. From seeing the devastating conditions the children were living in, Kaitlin founded an organization called, “Compassionate Kids Helping Kids.” Her new charity, comprised of 30 kids from across the valley of Phoenix is directed towards collecting new or gently used shoes for less fortunate kids across the world. For the three years that the charity has been running, we have collected over 3,000 pairs of shoes for children in over 6 orphanages across the globe. Besides founding a charity at the age of sixteen, Kaitlin was the captain of her high school dance team, and honors student, and actively involved in clubs. Kaitlin has continued to amaze her peers by attending Stanford University. She has showed us that one person can truly make a significant difference in the world. Without Kaitlin’s generous heart, driven personality, and exceptional leadership, more than hundreds of children would still be living without shoes today. Kaitlin is beyond doubt a role model for everyone.

Courtney Moore, 10th grade, Chaparral High School

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