MY AUNT GLENAE

My Aunt Glenae was a firefighter and a paramedic for almost 20 years. She led a fire scene. She was a nurse and she went to Peru and she gave vaccinations in villages. She died from cancer this year when she was only 47 years old but she was a great example to me as a leader and through her service and kindness to others.
MY MOM

My mom is the best mom ever! She helps the homeless, adopted my sister, takes good care of my family, and takes me on road trips every summer. She does so much. She does not like to give praised and my mom likes to give food to the homeless. She collects can goods and blankets for the homeless. Whenever she sees one beside the road she gives them money. She adopted my sister Kyana. We love her. She gets into a lot of trouble but still my mom loves her. One time my brother, Corwin broke his arm. My mom took care of him. She took him to the doctor and she watch Corwin and us at the same time. I love my family.
MY HERO

To protect and serve,
To uphold the law,
To serve the community,
To help those in need,
To keep the streets safe,
To fight for justice,
He is a police officer willing to serve those in need…

He is a hero,
He is my hero,
He is my dad.
UNCLE STUART

My uncle Stuart was a great leader. He is a good example to me. He has a construction company. He and his wife wanted to adopt some kids from Peru from an orphanage. He and his wife traveled to Peru to visit an orphanage. They saw the orphanage was in awful shape with no running water and very little electricity. They noticed the kids home was falling apart. The kids had to wear the same clothes every day.

Uncle Stuart decided to do something for the orphanage. He went to Peru many times to help the kids with no parents. He brought blankets, clothes, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. He sent workers to Peru to help for one week. They put in pipes so they can have running water. They put more wires in so they can have more light. They helped build a garden so they can have more food. He took kids shopping to buy things for them. The kids were glad that people cared about them.

They had a better home to live in. We should all be great leaders to other people like my uncle.
IT’S THE LITTLE THINGS THAT COUNT

If you have ever wondered about how youth are inspired you might be interested to know about a man who inspires me.

The coolest volunteer coach ever was my dad. Growing up he loved to play baseball. It was because of his love that I wanted to try baseball. The year I wanted to play there weren’t enough coaches for all of the teams. He knew how excited I was for the season and leapt at the chance to be a coach.

The team was made up of kids of different skill levels, but that didn’t matter. My dad helped kids that had never even thrown a ball before. He brought in a tire and had everyone try to throw through the center. It was better than trying to throw into a glove because we could see our accuracy. To help the team catch the ball better he used tennis balls and a racket to hit balls to us. No one was afraid to catch the softer tennis balls.

While other team were only playing their best players, my dad made sure that everyone got a chance to play every position. Every kid dreams of being a pitcher, and my dad made sure that every kid on my team got a chance to pitch in at least one game. No one was left out. It wasn’t about being the winning team; it was about learning the game and encouraging everyone to be successful.
UNTITLED

My aunt is a hero. She is a surgical nurse in Dundee, Scotland, who volunteered to work on a boat that travelled up the tributaries of the Amazon River in the jungles of Peru in South America. The boat was called “The Amazon Hope” and she, along with her other nurses and doctors, provided free medical care to the Peruvian natives of all ages who lived in villages along the river. The nurses and doctors on the boat treated every illness they could. My aunt gave vaccines to children. She also dressed wounds and assisted the doctors during minor surgery. Some women who were pregnant were given vitamins to prevent problems when their babies were born. Tooth decay was a very common problem, and many adults and children had to get their teeth removed. She also saw some children who were very sick with malaria, which is a very bad infection caused by mosquitoes. All of the people who were living in these native villages along the river were very poor. Some of them were scared of people with white faces, so my aunt gave toys to children to help them not be scared. At the end of the trip, my aunt was sad she couldn't help more of the children. She barely had time to enjoy the wildlife in the Amazon, although she did see lots of pink dolphins, manatees, and sloths. These are the many ways my aunt has shown leadership through service.
MY DAD

My dad is very nice. He is very busy because he helps people. Last week he helped three families in three days. The first family had a flood in their house. They next job was doing work for a disabled couple. He also set up neighborhood volleyball social.

In the house that had the flood, my dad did a lot of things to it. The house had water in the family room. My dad had to cut out the wet pad. Then he took the wet pad and threw it away. He got fans and blew it on the walls so it would dry. He let it run for 2 days until everything was dry. He then got new padding in the house and put the carpet where it was supposed to go. They then tried to pay him but he did not take the money.

The next family my dad helped was a disabled couple. My dad did some yard work for them. The grass was about a foot high. He also weed eated the edges of the lawn. He then mowed it. It was hard but he still did it. After that they offered him some money (again) but he still didn’t take it.

Next he set up a neighborhood volleyball game for adults. He wanted to help unite the neighborhood. He invited all of the neighbors. They played volleyball and everybody loved it. They socialized and ate ice cream. Everyone had fun in many ways. It took a lot of time and effort, but my dad said it was worth it.

My dad does stuff without being asked. He helps others before himself. He is very good at being nice to the elderly and disabled. I am learning to be like my dad. I hope that I could be like my dad someday.
BIG BROTHER

Have you ever had someone you looked up to? Well to me, it was my big brother and I literally had to look up to him! Many people have been influenced by great and famous people, but someone who has influenced me isn’t famous, but he’s great, this person is my big brother. This 6ft gentle giant is above all siblings in my opinion. He’s a superlative brother and a prodigious role model.

My big brother’s name is Kevin, his name means kind, which describes him perfectly. My brother is known as a compassionate and thoughtful person. He has helped me with many things such as my homework, chores and even games. He helps me whenever he can, especially because he’s a busy student who’s in high school in his senior year. He volunteers at the library, the arizona science center, and at Maricopa county hospital. My brother as you can tell is a fantastic person, so he would be my role model. He makes me want to be a better person, and he encourages me to do it.

I know my brother is a good leader and shows leadership in our community, because he gave up his minimum free time to volunteer at the public library and centers like Feed My Starving Children, these centers send food to countries that are poor and can’t feed themselves. Also he donates his own birthday money to charity centers. Thats why I think he best demonstrates leadership in my community.
MY SISTER ANNA

My sister Anna has always been a natural helper; in fact in high school, peers voted by her as a “Natural Helper” and “Everybody’s Super Hero”. My sister says the reason she was given this title was simply because she tried to be nice to everybody and stood up for the less fortunate.

As a Pilates instructor, my sister volunteered for a couple years at Sunrise Senior Living Center. She said, “helping them taught me how to grow old, and that’s a pretty good trade” She helped them but she learned how to grow old with grace in return.

On a rainy night in Tempe, my sister was driving around wondering what homeless people do during these sorts of storms. This led her to Mill Ave, near ASU. There, she came across a group of homeless teens hanging out with their sleeping bags and backpacks under a covered bridge keeping dry from the rain. After hanging out she and one of the homeless girls went to a near by pizza place and got a pizza and some soda to take back to the group. This experience helped her make a choice to volunteer at a local homeless teen drop in center “Tumbleweeds” in down town Tempe.

My sister is an average person doing small simple things in her life to try to make a difference. She likes to say it’s the simple things that matter. She believes that if everyone just did a little it would change the world!
JUST LIKE US

I never understood what a true hero was until I met my uncle for the first time a couple years ago. My uncle is tall, slim, always seen with sunglasses as well as a cane, and is blind. He was born without sight in his eyes but that does not make him different from other people. I believe, in a way, he knows much more than people who possess the ability to see. He tells me although he sees darkness, he knows exactly where every object is through his senses. He has incredible coordination and a very intelligent mind. He knows how large or wide a room is through its echoes. When he goes down the stairs, he never trips because he knows exactly where to place his feet and how steep or shallow a step is. My uncle has been living like this and dealing with all discrimination he gets fifty-four years.

Although my uncle has to swallow people’s discrimination every day, he told me he still feels very blessed to be breathing and alive. Many people think my uncle is merely just a disabled and handicapped person but to me, he is my inspiration. My uncle’s daily routine is waking up and doing volunteer work. He visits an organization that promotes clean air and water and helps pick up trash at local parks and gardens. He also goes to the countryside of Shanxi, his hometown in China, every week to visit recreation centers and help farm or garden. Though aside from doing good for the environment, he never forgets to visit a place very dear to his heart, a center for blind children. He goes and tells stories to the kids and even stops by local convenience stores to buy food the kids like. My uncle puts in 70 hours of community work a week and enjoys every moment of it. When I asked him why he does all this, he answered with a hearty laugh and said, despite being blind, I want to help those who are less fortunate like me because that is the least I can do.

One September 1st, 2014, my world came crashing down when my mother got a call from my aunt saying this his health was immensely going downhill. My uncle’s old age and inability to see was hindering the way his brain functioned. My uncle was in a vegetative state for three weeks and was discharged when doctors announced he had not much longer to live. My uncle, today, uses his wheelchair as a mode of transportation and still regularly gardens and does community service. My uncle, a person who although is less fortunate than others, is no different from everyone else. When the time for him to say goodbye comes, I will remember him as someone who passed peacefully, and left a mark in the world.
A HEALTHY START

Children are supposed to be protected and cared for when they are young. However, that does not always occur. Some children – kids who live in the very neighborhoods that we drive through periodically – are deprived of this basic, essential necessity. They lack a safe environment to call their home. It is easy to overlook them since they often go unnoticed, sleeping in alleys or in parks. But one local hero and family friend goes out of his way to give them the care and assistance they need.

Dr. Randy Christiansen is a pediatrician who runs a mobile health clinic called Crews N’ Health Mobile. He provides health care to homeless children and teens in the Valley of the Sun. He began his effort in an old RV, and has built his practice to serve hundreds of children each year. He not only gives them the vaccinations or medications they need. He also addresses dire health issues, saving lives.

Dr. Christiansen’s work is a form of social justice. Similar to the endeavors of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Dr. Christiansen addresses the needs of those other overlook. He attempts to create a level playing field for all kids, making sure that they at least have the ability to be healthy. While Dr. Christiansen cannot change every aspect of these kids’ lives, he can at least give them a healthy start to their life’s journey.
A HEALTHY START

She is a hybrid
Mixed with Native American and Mexican Blood
Her duty is strength
She must be strong
This is what she was taught
   She is a mother
   To children not her own
   She is a shield
   Keeping others safe
   Preparing them for the world
She is a caretaker
Assistant to young and small
Evolving life
Chaperone to learning
She is a teacher
   She is guidance to her students
   Light
   A saving grace
   Beacon of hope
   Something to cherish
She is selflessness
All needs come before hers
Giving up her time so she can monitor
She offers her eyes
As the adopted play
   She is love
   It radiates from her very being
   Crashing over those around her
   Consuming them
   She is a matriarch
She is tough and thick skinned
Weak but passionate
Sensitive and caring
Hardened by life
Softened by family, blood and not
   She is caring
   Shameless
   Mood lifter and day brightener
   Maker of smiles, warm hugs
   The definition of endearment
She is the giver of life, balance, protection
She is brilliance, teacher
Guardian and leader
She is Yvonne Urbalejo