

Honorable Mention
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Robert Frost explains, in his poem “The Road Not Taken,” the choice he must make between two different roads in the woods. As he was walking, he must decide on either the road most taken or the road less traveled upon. I personally have had a similar experience as Mr. Robert Frost. When I was very young, my mother was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia. During her treatment, she received much support from family and friends in many different forms like: meals, cards, flowers, and especially prayers. One very special gift that my mother received – during her chemotherapy treatment – was a simple, cozy blanket from a concerned friend who knew exactly what my mother was going through. After many prayers for my mom’s safety, God blessed not only her but my family by keeping her strong and by curing her cancer; she is now a blessed leukemia survivor.

Many years later, my magnificent grandmother was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer. The news was devastating because she was so healthy and physically active. Of course, my family and I wanted to make my grandmother’s experience toward her battle as comfortable and easy as possible. So, one day, we bought her a beautiful, soft, navy and white blanket. Out of all the loving gifts she received, this blanket was her absolute favorite. The comfort and warmth spread through the blanket making her feel strong and loved. After talking to my mom, I found out that both she and my grandmother shared similar experiences. Their favorite gift was a cozy, love-filled blanket.

I now had the decision whether or not to portray these good deeds and make other cancer patients feel our compassion and let them know that we are with them along the way. Little did I know that those experiences were going to shape my road to form my own charity called *Blankets of Love*. I formed this 501(c) with two of my friends who were going through the same experience with their friends and family. We were always taught to give back because we have received so many blessings in our lives. We spent many weekends planning our mission to form our nonprofit organization. Once the blankets were ordered, we contacted our local cancer centers, and finally started distributing the blankets to cancer patients while they received chemotherapy. We knew that our blankets and our presence gave them comfort and support during difficult times. The patients’ smiles and gratitude showed me that by forming *Blankets of Love*, we were definitely “riding on the road least travelled.”

