



Palm Beach Fellowship of Christians & Jews 2019 Essay and Creative Arts Competition

Essay Honorable Mention

Lili Hall, St. Mark's Episcopal School (Grade 6)

Hope is one very important aspect to learn during life. Martin Luther King Jr. was a civil rights leader that stated many reasons to have hope over his life span. As Kings states, "We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope." Martin clearly states that it is important in hard times to keep trying and not to lose hope. Hope has always impacted my life by helping me through rough times.

It all started when my mom made poor choices that affected my family and me. At a young age, because of the influence of others she decided to do drugs and alcohol and had my brother at 14. Six years later she had me. She stopped the illegal things and had tried to remain sober. However, when I was two she decided we were too much work and her behavior became worse. As a result, my brother went to live with his dad while my grandparents fought for custody of me. Finally, after a long court battle and some time in foster care they won custody. Seven years later, I never hear from her except for an occasional text not even for birthdays or Christmas. Now that I'm in middle school I have social issues due to my mom not being around. My mom's choices have affected everyone in the family.

Without hope I would not have made it through this difficult time. To begin, I cope by talking with others to get my feelings out. Additionally, I would help others at St. George soup kitchen giving meatloaf to the hungry. This helped me by seeing other people happy. Equally important, I like to pray to God about anything I need help with. Throughout this difficult time I needed hope.

I learned many life lessons through this experience. Not caring about what others think is one step towards not being like my mom. I now know to rely on family for what I cannot do alone. The most important lesson I have learned is to not do drugs or drink alcohol. Through this process I have learned many important lessons.

The struggle I have had in life would have been unbearable if I did not hope with me. When my mom made bad choices that affected my family and me, I had to make steps to fix the problem and learn what is important in life. Hope is one of the most powerful superpowers and like super powers, it can save people.