

The Remo C. Bertugli Memorial Essay

Contestant #5

You may have heard the quote from Maya Angelou “I’ve learned that you shouldn’t go through life with a catcher’s mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw something back”, that quote inspires me. I believe positivity inspires positivity. Doing for others not only makes you feel good, it inspires others to do the same, and that can make all the difference in our world.

One of the biggest things that has impacted my life, is helping children. I have volunteered as an assistant teacher for young children’s dance classes for several years. I also take part in Big Brothers Big Sisters of America as a mentor. As a young child many people helped me whether it was a dance teacher or school teacher. They helped me gain confidence and believe in myself. I often struggled with reading and speaking in public due to a learning disability. I never forgot the difference these people made in my life, and I believe in paying it forward. That’s what truly makes a difference in our lives. I love not only helping the children with their skills, but also giving encouragement and helping them believe in themselves. Just like others helped me to be who I am today, I hope I am doing the same for others.

Another impact on my life has been recently I took money I earned from working, and purchased items our local Humane Society needs and donated them. Animals are innocent, and through no fault of their own sometimes find themselves in hard circumstances. Humane societies rely on donations, and especially during the pandemic it has been hard for people to donate. Many people sadly across the country were facing extremely hard times, some people had to surrender their animals to shelters unable to care for them. Less people may have been able to adopt during the pandemic. Animal shelters are always in need, but especially now due to the pandemic. The dogs and cats I’ve been lucky enough to have as my pets throughout my

life have been reliable and loyal friends. Your pets truly are loyal friends who love you no matter what, and are always there for you. Their love impacted my life greatly, and being able to pay that love forward to animals in need did as well.

I hope that the life I lead will make a difference in other's lives, and I hope one day people will say about me, she saw where help was needed and she tried to make a difference.