



2015 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Art, Writing & Multimedia Contest

Meg Hopkins (10th Grade)
Magnificat High School
Principal. Marilyn Arundel
Teacher, Elizabeth Twohig

Every person that has impacted the world or done something to benefit our society, originally started out with just a dream on how to achieve what it is they wanted to do. Often times, our dreams seem too big or scare us, so we simply give up. We think that we are just one person out of billions, so what we do will never really matter. People like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who set their sights on achieving their dream even when it seems impossible and followed it through all the way to the end, are who I look up to and aspire to be like.

Ever since I was little, I always knew that when I grew up, no matter what my job was, I wanted to help people. While this is a very broad dream, during my freshman year of high school, I began throwing around the idea of becoming a teacher. I have always loved working with kids and my friends have often told me that I would make a great teacher. Last summer, I began working for an organization where I tutored inner city kids. It was, by far, the greatest experience that I have ever had. The kids that I worked with ranged from third to sixth grade and many came from very low-income families. It was an eye opening experience for me, because I realized how truly blessed I was.

Throughout my weeks in the tutoring program, I came to be very close with many of the kids. Listening to some of their stories about their families and some of the things that they go through, such as parents leaving them or bills not getting paid, broke my heart. It was terrible seeing these twelve-year-olds going through and having to worry about things that they just simply shouldn't have to. I decided that, although I couldn't help every underprivileged kid in America, I could help the ones in Cleveland. My dream is to work with underprivileged kids and teach them, hopefully, making a better future for them and their families.

While this dream may seem huge and does scare me a lot, I know that it is what I want to do. I have been so amazingly blessed throughout my life with a great education, and it only seems right that I use what I have been taught to help others. Some of the teachers that I have had throughout my years in school have made such an impact on my life and the lessons that I have been taught I have carried with me. When I become a teacher I hope to make a positive impact on my students' lives and be the teacher that they remember not only as an educator, but also as someone who taught them that they could achieve their dreams despite the obstacles that stand in their way.

In order to achieve my dream, I will continue tutoring and volunteering with my program that I am involved in. A lot of my friends have asked me why it is that I volunteer my free time to go and tutor, when I could be doing so many other things. I remind them of how incredibly blessed we are with everything that we have, and the feeling that I get when I know that I have helped the kids is indescribable. Many of my friends have begun volunteering with me because they support what I believe in and agree that it is right to use our knowledge to give back.

Although I am only sixteen and I don't have much influence in the world, I strongly believe that making a difference in these kids' lives can change the world. I may just be one teacher that they have in their lifetime, but if I positively impact their lives, I will have achieved my dream. By working with the kids less fortunate than I, and teaching them, not only lessons in school, but, that they can do or become whatever they set their minds to. It may not change the entire world, but it will change their world and mean more to me than anything that I could dream of.

"I Have A Dream"

