

# 2017 CSCGP Middle School Teen Essay Contest

## 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner

### Stranded

by Amouri Tomlin

My Grandma “Geegee” always does our summer big. Amusement Parks, Vacations, and late nights was our thing. Me and My brother “AJ” called it “Litty Bop” because every day was just litty. I was 632.4 miles away from Geegee, but, I had no idea how bad her illness was. I was still in the middle of school and rumors was spreading in my house about Geegee’s illness. My family members started to become weird. I’m receiving phone calls from relatives being ask the question “Are you okay” multiple times. I ask my mom why everyone acting weird like everyone keep asking me are you okay. My mom said they just miss you. June 7, 2014 comes up and it is the day to go see Geegee in Philadelphia. 10 hrs riding all the way to Philadelphia from South Carolina was totally worth it because, I knew Me and AJ were going to have them litty nights all over again. We finally get there and I walk in the house and see the walls covered in beautiful quotes. I was a little confused but I didn’t think it was anything serious. Geegee eyes were red and she looked like she had been crying. She grabs me and AJ hands and lead us to the living room. She started off with a comfortable hug and just looked us in our eyes “I know you guys want to know what we will be doing this summer but, do you know what breast cancer is?” Confusion fell upon me and AJ faces “Umm... I heard of it but, I thought it was some type of bald joke” I replied. “Well it’s not a joke because I’ve been diagnosed with Breast Cancer” Geegee announce. My heart broke. I mean I could literally hear it crack into pieces. Geegee keep talking about how she found out. My vision was blurred with tears, my face was hot from crying, and the shattering of my heart still rung in my ears. We talked more and I discovered that Geegee was diagnosed with Breast Cancer May 9<sup>th</sup> 2014 which was my little brothers birthday and Mother’s Day weekend. She talked to her Dr’ who agreed to let us come and ask all the questions we wanted so that we could know more about what she was facing and going thru. My family had dealt with cancer before; my grand mom “Makalana” lost her battle with lung

cancer in the 2000s. So, I was terrified. It felt like having some knowledge of the disease was more frightening since I knew how terrible it could be. While here for the summer she had several Chemo treatments and was very sick and even hospitalized. No matter how sick she got she always made a way to show how much she loved us.

Summer was over and I had to go back to school but, before I got in the car to go back to SC, I made her promise she would never stop fighting and she keep that promise. I was very scared to go back home and leave my Geegee here but, I had to but, was assured she was in good hands. I don't want to end this story talking about my feelings. I want to tell you more about my grand mom, Geegee, and how she's doing now. First, let me tell you that when I heard geegee say the word "survivor", she says it like the joyful blessing that it is. During my Geegee's breast cancer journey I started calling her "Warrior" because she was committed on fighting cancer. She now has her own organization called "Robin Pink Journey", she helps women with breast cancer but showering them with household essentials. She also speaks at cancer awareness events. In Loving Memory of every cancer patient and family member who lost their fight you're not forgotten. For the WARRIOR'S, Don't give up because my GEEGEE surely did not.....