



# 2019 Ben Strauss Youth Program

## Middle School

### Teen Essay Contest

# Gavin Dunlop

## Feelings of a Good Friend

Knowing a great friend that has a relative diagnosed has cancer is very sad, and stressful for your friend and yourself. Seeing someone go through this is terrible and heartbreaking. My best friend Roman went through this and it put a lot of weight on his shoulders. Roman's mom Sarah was diagnosed with cancer and this changed his mindset completely. He couldn't see his mom, couldn't stop thinking about her, or even stay in his own house. This was a hard change for Roman and hard change for me.

I heard Romans mom Sarah had cancer on a Saturday morning after I went to Romans Baseball game. When I heard Sarah had cancer my heart dropped and felt like the Romans family was in need. My family started to work extra hours to raise money for Sarah and her medicine. Not only that but we went out to buy groceries and household items for them so they could stay with Sarah and stay as a family. We knew that doing things for them would mean a lot and help them not stress as much about what they should be doing outside of the hospital.

After Sarah was diagnosed with cancer I didn't really get to see my best friend Roman. All the fun activities after school that we used to do had stopped. We couldn't play baseball, basketball, fish or even do our homework together. This was hard for me because I had to change my schedule and I was so used to the normal after school daily routine. I knew that this is all I was thinking about all week.

After a couple of days of thinking my family and other supporters decided to make. Everyone thought this was a great idea and a perfect way to spread love and to show that we care. All of a sudden we see people all over our area wearing these shirts. We took lots of pictures and this got me happier from when I heard Roman couldn't come out for a week or two.

A couple of days later things had gotten better, Sarah was doing better and was getting more active. Roman started coming outside more and things started getting back in order. We went fishing started to play baseball, basketball, and soccer and went out to sports games. I was so glad when I got to see my best friend again this was a big

challenge but we overcame it. We did it as a team and that's all that matters. When Sarah started to get better we got to go see her in the hospital. She looked great she was walking around saying hi she was active. But in the corner of my eye, I see a sign that says " life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass it's about learning to dance in the rain." This quote was so inspiring to me that I said: " I will fight all my challenges now so I can have an easy life later." Now that I saw that quote I will live after it forever. After hearing that quote I have found things to be easier and everything made more sense. This was a big change in my life but learned I a lot. I'm glad that Sarah was ok and that I could say that I helped someone when they were fighting cancer.