



2019 Ben Strauss Youth Program

Middle School

Teen Essay Contest

Julissa Mexquititla- Martinez

Devastating News

Have you or your family ever been affected by a friend or family member by cancer? I have and it has affected my family. It's never easy to lose someone to cancer. I have sadly lost my grandma to cancer and it has been really tough on my family. My grandma never got sick until one day my grandpa got sick to the point that he was about to pass away. The doctors told my grandma that they could intubate my grandpa or they could take him off life support. My grandma didn't want any of those choices, so she said she would rather have him pass away peacefully at her house. Instead my grandma found a lady who could cure people who were ill. The lady cured my grandpa and little by little my grandpa started to walk again.

When he got much more better in November. They gave us some very devastating news saying that my grandma had throat cancer. Doctors gave her chemotherapy, but since it was in the throat little by little she stopped eating. She was able to celebrate her birthday April 2, but little by little she stopped talking. In May, for the last time, my grandma's last words to my mom were "Happy Mother's Day". That was also the last time I heard my grandma's voice and I told her "Happy Mother's Day". In that week my mom had a dream that a lady asked her if she wanted to see my grandma? In the dream, my mom said "yes". So then in that dream my mom saw my grandma for the last time and they hugged for the last time in her dream. Then my mom asked the lady if my grandma was still going to live. The lady told my mom "Woman you have to be strong, because your mom only has a little bit of days left to live." Then my mom started to cry and scream and told the lady that it was not true.

When my mom had that dream everyday my grandma started to get worse day by day. My grandma was only alive for only 1 more week.

When my mom told one of her siblings that was her brother. She told my uncle that my grandma probably would like to see one of her kids out of 3 boys and 5 girls in the United States. My mom convinced her younger single brother to go to see my grandma. My uncle listened to my mom and he went to Mexico as soon as he could possibly go. My uncle traveled on May 16th in the morning and he got to my grandma's house at 6 in the night. My mom told my uncle to tell my grandma about her kids life in the United States. My uncle told everything about us. We were happy and that they had everything that they wanted when they were younger, but they didn't have when they were little kids. My grandma was happy to hear that her kids were happy to have happy lives here in America but she knew that they couldn't come visit her because they did not have visas. My grandma passed away happy knowing that what my uncle told her. My grandma knew that we had happy lives. In the morning at 8 my grandma sadly passed away and died in the arms of my uncle that had just arrived in Mexico to see her for the last time. When she passed away it felt like the world fell on top of us and our heart felt like it shattered.

My mom especially felt these emotions because it has been 23 years since she last saw my grandma. Thank god that my mom had a dream that my grandma came and visited us and my mom is very happy knowing that my grandma is always there for us and that she always will be in our hearts. This is the story of my grandma. We were thinking that my grandpa was going to pass away, but instead it was the other way around. I'm thankful to have my grandpa here with me and he came and visited us 2 times already. This essay is in honor of my grandma that would always be my angel and she would always be in my heart. You may not believe this but this is all reality.