



We See

What We See
Changes
Who We Are

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The Strength of a Child

By WITNESS Youth Staff

Strength doesn't always deal with one's physical ability but emotional capabilities to grow, adapt and evolve. In least expected circumstances, strength can arise, the unexpected potential of a child.

There was a child who persons thought would not become anything in life because she wasn't the one in front that talked in school. She kept everything to herself. But what they didn't know was that in her spare time she would write the most amazing poems. Although she didn't speak much, her poems were good and amazing. Her mother would motivate her and help her with her work.

Surprisingly in school there was a poem competition where persons of eighteen years had to write poems and in turn would be awarded prizes and publicity. Example; the interviews would have been published in the newspaper. When the child heard of this, she was so excited because she thought "finally there is something I'm good at and I can prove to everyone that I have a talent".

She decided to apply but first she had to tell her Teacher about it. Her Teacher asked her why she wanted to do something so something so hard even though it is not difficult for her, only for the other children? The girl then decided to write a poem for her Teacher from scratch because she thought that if she gives her teacher a poem that is already written, maybe she would believe her.

When she was finished, the Teacher was

shocked and she then hugged and kissed the young girl and said it was beautiful. The poem that the young girl wrote was "The Life of The Poor Child Who Had a Dream". After that, around school everyone was talking about this little girl who was brave and talented and who was going to be part of this competition. On the day of the competition the girl knew what she was going to write about and she did. A week after, the person who was the winner would be announced and the person that won would have to talk about why they wrote the poem and read it to everyone. Then it was announced that the winner was a child and her poem was "A mother's love".

She explained what the poem was, she stated "I have the best mother in the world, when others talk about her she says, don't worry, I love you, when others laugh at me she says, don't worry, I love you and you are the most intelligent person you know, when others say I'm just a stupid little girl she encourages me to excel and be all that I can be. No matter what she says I am proud of you and you are filled with wonder and love. I love my mom because she is more than my mom; she is my best friend, my role model and my everything".

A child has the strength to be and do things everyone else can do. Everyone has the potential to be great, what they need is the encouragement and support like a mother's love.

Hope for the Season

By WITNESS Youth Staff

Dear Reader,
I express my heartfelt gratitude for your support over the year. I can't truly express on a piece of paper what your support means to me. I don't know if you know this but you all have been giving me more courage to keep on doing what I love and that is trying to help someone besides myself. I know you are reading the articles on our youth page and this is having an impact on your lives so I feel encouraged to write more.

As I always say, don't give up because someday the abuse and misuse of power either emotionally or physically will stop. Forget the sadness; this is supposed to be a season of giving and happiness. If anyone tries to hurt you or make you sad by abusing you, I would like to remind you to contact Help and Shelter or the nearest Police station for help.
All the best for the Holiday!

My Teenage Double Life

By WITNESS Youth Staff

I'm a 16-year old student who lives a double life: a life at home and a life at school. My life at school is the best experience I've ever come across. I'm surrounded by my friends who love and care for me. This is where my best and my funniest moments are made. The only problem is that my friends think of me as this cheerful girl but they don't actually know what's hiding behind this cheerful face.

My life at home isn't the best. I live with both my parents but I only have a relationship with my mom. My father is an alcoholic and a first-hand smoker. This affects me the most because I always have assignments to do when I get home. My friends ask me why I don't do my work and study at home but the reason for that is sometimes I can hardly focus because my dad gets drunk and curses my mom who in return takes out her rage on

me. I hear them fighting and cursing through the walls. My mom frets over any little thing. She curses me every day, over and over again. My parents think it doesn't bother me when it is actually tearing me apart. This is repeated every day. Sometimes I wish I didn't have to go home but where would I go?

As a teenager, I think parents should be careful what they do and how they act around their kids. Being a teen is hard work in itself and having family problems on top of that can greatly impact one's life. As much as I try to ignore my parents' behavior, I can't. It's hard to ignore something that is consistently happening to you every day. My best advice for teens going through the position I am in is "Hold on, take it easy and you'll get through it."



The Neighbour Next Door

By WITNESS Youth Staff

Dear neighbour,
I am a 17 year old girl and I see you. I saw you abusing your wife, beating her like she's an animal. I saw you when you literally took her out of her bed while she was sleeping and threw her outside like she was a piece of garbage, just because you were drunk. I saw how you made her cry many days and nights. I heard you every time you called her a nasty "bitch" and when you told her she's a

"whore". How do you think your actions make me feel? I am scared of you. Usually people turn to their neighbours for help, but I would not turn to you. Such animalistic behaviour is mean and cruel. I see you as a weak person who can't deal with life's challenge. But you are even weaker when you turn to violence and abuse. I gather nothing but hatred for you. I see you as a monster. I see you and I hear you! When will you stop?

"What we see changes who we are." – JR

Are you a witness or victim of violence? You are not alone. Make your anonymous call to Help & Shelter today and speak with a live counselor on 227-3454 or 225-4731.