



REAL HEROES DON'T NEED A CAPE

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Hero. When I hear this word, the first person that comes to my mind is my mom. My mom is truly amazing. She always puts others before herself and is one of the most giving people I know. She lights up a room and makes tough times better. She truly has a heart of gold.

Every year my mom leads a mission team to the poorest country in the world, Haiti. When the earthquake hit Haiti in 2010, my mom knew she needed to help. She led a group of 10-20 people to Haiti to help those that needed it most for 10 years straight. While she was down there with her team, they built houses, schools, and wells. They also delivered beds, food, and basic hygiene items that the families and communities desperately needed.

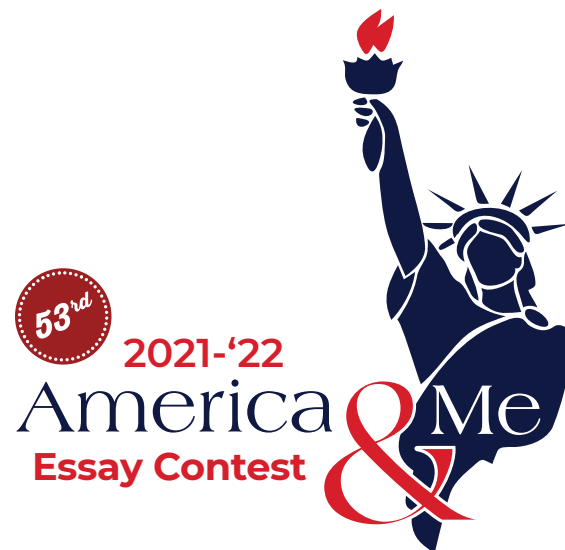
My mom feels strongly about education. While she is in Haiti, she provides educational opportunities for many. She teaches kids and teens basic health necessities, and she helps train teachers. All the work she does down there and the effect she has on the community is amazing to me. When the pandemic hit, the way she helped Haiti had to drastically change, but her mission remained the same.

Even though it was too dangerous to travel to Haiti this past summer, it didn't stop her desire to help those in need there. She continued to fundraise and educate people about Haiti. She would send donations to Haiti so that programming could continue, and basic needs could be met. Despite the fact it wasn't the same as past years, she still found a way to do her part in making the world a better place. Her perseverance, hard work, planning of mission trips, and fundraisers is eye-opening. It helps hundreds of Haitians every year. Her unending love for those in need and constant willingness to help others is truly inspiring.

As I mentioned earlier, education has always been a huge part of my mom's life. She is a teacher at Rockford Public Schools, and she has been teaching for 24 years. My mom is an amazing teacher and cares for her students unconditionally. When the pandemic

struck, mom had to put her students' health first and give them the best education she could no matter the circumstances. She stated, "Teaching throughout the Covid shutdown has been especially hard. Teachers and students both have had to adapt to learning through masks and/or on a computer screen. Keeping my students healthy and safe is my number one priority." Despite challenges, my mom has risen above the hardship of global pandemic and has put her students before herself every day at work. She is who I aspire to be like, the person I look up to everyday, and the person I can always count on. Those alone are the greatest superpowers of all.

As you can see, my mom is everything you could want in a hero, even if she doesn't wear a cape.



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