

5th

THE SELFLESS, GIVING, EVERYDAY HERO

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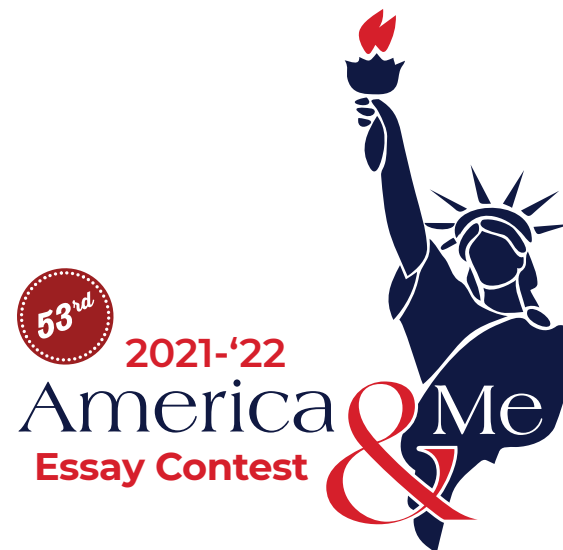
There are many heroes in our lives, especially now during the pandemic. Some of these people can be involved in our own lives directly or only in others' lives. One person whom I consider to be a hero is one of my mother's friends, Natalia. She helps an innumerable number of people and takes care of them and their families. She is a kind, giving, and strong-willed person. Because of these qualities, along with many others, I believe that she is a hero.

During her childhood, Natalia lived in Kipyatchka, a village in Ukraine. In the village, everyone in the family must contribute and help maintain the property, farm, and livestock. This taught her the importance of working hard to help herself and her family. Now, she tries to help anyone who needs it and does incredible community service for the church. Her family's active mindset and spirit rubbed off on her, and it shows in her everyday life.

When Natalia was 19, she moved to the United States. At this young age, she had embarked on the most significant and terrifying journey of her life. This was a hard time for her for a couple of reasons. She did not know English well and had no family or relatives in the country. Her hardworking nature was an essential aspect of her success in this new life. Even when she was virtually alone, she made money for a living and then finished school in college. She was not discouraged and won the battle against her hardships. She became her own hero before she was anyone else's.

During the pandemic, many doctors and medical workers were, and still are, desperately needed to help all of the ill and suffering people. Natalia sacrificed her time and risked both her and her family's health to help those people in need. She worked extended hours at the hospital and, even then, continued to help the church and other families. Her selflessness and goodness saved many lives. She is an amazing person and always tries to assist others whenever she can.

Being a hero does not necessarily mean having supernatural powers or being physically strong. Heroes can save lives or help others just by volunteering their time and expertise. For example, Natalia helps people using her knowledge and donating items she does not need to them. Many people take certain people, especially medical workers, for granted, and only during tragedy realize the crucial roles they play in our society. Everyone can become a hero, as long as they are willing to graciously help others around them and be the best person they can be while doing it.



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