I like to read books and sing. My grandma loves me so much. We do activities and games. She takes good care of me. We eat good food to make our bodies grow.

I swim in the swimming pool and eat apples. I love my grandma so much. I like to visit my grandma too.

Audrina, Age: 7
My Family. My Story.

Art Contest
2017

Organized by the
Idaho KinCare Project

This booklet can be found online at
www.211.idaho.gov
Our best hope is for parents to love and care for their children and to raise them in a happy, healthy home. However, family crisis sometimes requires children to be placed with relatives or other meaningful adults in their lives. This type of custody arrangements is commonly referred to as “KinCare.”

In Idaho, over 29,000 children under the age of 18 live in households headed by grandparents or other relatives (6.8% of children in the state).

The My Family. My Story. Art Contest’s purpose is twofold: to recognize the contributions of KinCare providers and to provide the children who participate an opportunity to feel connected with other children in similar situations.

The following poems, essays and drawings are the expressions of children who were placed in difficult circumstances and yet have the resiliency to share their experiences with others.

These are their families and their stories.

The Idaho KinCare Project, 2017
For more information about KinCare in Idaho visit: www.211.idaho.gov
My Family. My Story.

Table of Contents:

Introduction ........................................3
Winning Entries ..........................6-11
Distinguished Entries ..............12-24
Special Thanks .................................25
Index .................................................26
Winning Entry
Age 0-8

Audrina, Age 7

I like to read books
and sing my grandma
Loves me so much
We do activities and games.
She takes good care
Of me. We eat good food
to make our bodies grow.

I swim in the swimming
pool and eat apples.
I love my grandma
So much! I like to read my
bike too.
My Family. My Story.

Winning Entry
Age 0-8

Kaycee, Age 7

My name is Kaycee. I live with my grandma. She always makes sure we get to do amazing things: balloon rides, camping and lots of fun things! I love grandma.
Our Family

My Story

Winning Entry
Age 9-12

Gabbriella, Age 10

My grandma is the best. She takes care of me and is really nice and loving. She does everything with me. She goes skiing and with me, she helps me with my homework. She takes me to swimming pools over the summer. She encourages me to try new things and so much more. My grandma is the best because she takes me places I’ve never been and places I never thought I would go. I’m glad she’s done this cause this is what makes her my grandma!
My Family. My Story.

Winning Entry
Age 9-12

Annika, Age 10

When I was little I had diabetes in my system. I was very sick. I had to get to therapy everyday. I live with my grandparents and love my mom. I still have to take pills to sleep. I also go to gymnastics 3 times a week for 3 hours each day. My dad still visits sometimes and I like that he does. I love my family so much and I know they love me more. I could have never done this without them. I don't have any problems anymore and I always have stories about how I was so sick and how I could have died at such a young age. Some of my friends say that they feel bad for me but I know it was for the best and I know no matter what my family will love me. I love my life so much I would never ever want to change it.
Let me start off by introducing you to my life story and how it's incredibly made a huge impact to this day. Not everyone has parents that care for them; yah it could be true but listen to this. I grew up with a really harsh life. Even though no one should have to worry about being unloved, sad or alone. Some people don't really know how big someone can change their life. Well, I moved in with my aunt exactly a year ago. I know how it feels to be scared, try new things but I don't regret it at all. After moving in, I noticed she helped me understand things way better and it made me feel more comfortable. I feel so blessed, loved, more happy and words can't explain how more happy I am. This has impacted my life by so much. Instead of living with either of my parents, the positive change my aunt has made in my life means everything to me.
How has living with my grandparents impacted me positively? Well it would be an understatement to say my mom has been in and out of life more times than I can count. If it hadn’t been for my Grandma, I’m not certain I would be alive today. Instead of being on the streets or in dangerous homes, I have a warm safe house with food and family. Instead of being hungry every night when I go to sleep, I sleep contently knowing that I will never sleep on an empty stomach. I could go on and on about the wonderful things they have done for me, but none of it could give them justice. To anyone out there living with someone other than their parents, just know that they probably care for you more than you can possibly imagine.
Living with my uncle

Around last year my uncle had finished college and had stayed with us until he could find a job somewhere. I had always liked him because we were always there for me as a kid. I was in 7th grade and it was during the summer and some of the year. I started staying up late to talk to him and just watch TV with him because I loved being around him. Eventually we started talking about my future and just stuff I needed to get off my chest. It felt great to have someone to talk to finally, I was never one to talk to family about problems. Some nights we would even go outside to talk, it was something that I really needed. It changed me. I felt better knowing there was someone that I could really talk to. We even did campfires out in the backyard and talked until 2:00 A.M. Even now in my 8th grade year I still call him and text him to talk about stuff. He really changed the way I talk to people and I open up. I’ll never forget what he has done for me and how many times he has been there for me.
My Family My Story.

Sitka, Age 9

This is my house

Christmas

Grandma ahh, help me...
My Family Means the world to me. Well what's left of it. All I have left in my family is my grandmother Michelle, my older sister Kaitlyn, and her daughters. I have lived with my grandmother since I was 10 months because my mother and father were always doing drugs and drinking. My father would always beat my older sisters, I haven't seen my father since I was born, and I haven't seen my mother for over 7 years. I am so thankful my grandmother took me in and my sisters. She has given me everything I have ever wanted. She has given me a great environment and a fantastic life. I don't know what I would do without her. Due to my family I am in counseling, my grandmother will and has always been there for me. I have a shoulder to cry on when I need to. If it weren't for my grandmother I would have ended up in foster care possibly away from my sisters and family. I feel very safe. I live in a good environment, I get good grades, and I am loved very much.
My Family My Story.

Joshua, Age 4

My Question to Joshua, what do you think about our family. He said I love you and you take care of me, we have fun, you love me, I'm not scared anymore, only when it gets to dark, I like to go swimming cause it's fun, and Pica nic's.
My Family My Story.

Alakonn, Age 15

Without her I’d be:
A ward of the state
In a group home.
Never able to see my family
Feeling like I’m in prison.
Only getting visits on weekends,
Never given a second chance;
For what I did.
Being called what I am,
By people who don’t understand
What it’s like to be me
If I’m not there; I’d be in worse places.
Like prison or juvenile detention.
All of this was true,
if not for my grandma,
I’d still be there.
My Family My Story.

Patience, Age 7

I love my grandma and my grandpa.
I love that they take me places special.
I love living with my grandma and my grandpa.
I always want to live with my for grandma and my grandpa!!
My Family. My Story.

Compose a poem, write a short essay or draw a picture that describes how living with someone other than your parent (such as a grandparent, aunt, or uncle) has made a positive difference in your life. Poems should be 20 lines or less; essays should be 200 words or less. Entries may be submitted on this entry form or on a separate sheet of 8.5 x 11 paper by May 31, 2017.
My Family. My Story.

Mia, Age 7

I get to go to school.
Cloverdale Elementary

(Mia Leander) age 7 yrs
My Family. My Story.

Akwa, Age 14

Sense coming and loving with my aunt and uncle I have been able to get a school and all my goals get up. School coming and living with my aunt and uncle they were worry about my little brother and I get take a rest all the time. Sense coming with my aunt and uncle I am staying in school and not moving every month I get races of my friends and thanks because now I am happy.
Elizabeth, Age 10

My Story: living with grandma

Some kids just can’t live with their parents. And I am one of them. It’s made a huge difference in my life. It took a lot of time for my brain to adjust to my new roles. At first it made a difference because I had to adjust to the new boundaries. I didn’t have chores or any thing like that. I didn’t walk or ride a bike everywhere. I also wasn’t around my parents’ cigarette smoke and my home town. Fortunately, I now live in Idaho Falls. I got used to where things were. But when school started and I had to go to Dr. E. F. S. Elementary, things got harder than I needed. In the kids store, talked behind my back, but before I knew it, 3 girls were popping out of nowhere behind me, asking me, “Will you be my friend?” The 3rd day of school I had 12 friends. I was unbelievable to my mom, which had only made 3 friends. I had a lot of drama going on. 3 boys liked me and was asking me if I can go out with them. I had a 3rd grade teacher that seemed to not like me and I had only one pair of shoes to go until the 3rd of the next month. And now that I am in 4th grade and have 14 friends. And a great teacher. I have good grades. And less drama. I now have chores and other things to do. Living in Idaho has helped by making me understand what it is like to have a normal life.
As I walk, I walk with my head held high. Everyone sees a strong happy girl. Nobody would ever suggest anything different. But what they don’t know is how it all started. From the moment I was born, I was a fighter. I was born a month early. I was gray, the color of the road. Then my parents weren’t being good parents. So when I was nine months old, God put two amazing people in my life. They took me in, under their wing. They’re my parents now, not my grandparents, my parents. There will always be struggles in life. But I was born a fighter. And I know I can overcome anything that comes my way.
My Family. My Story.

Haylen, Age 4

5/24/2017

Dear Idaho Medicare Project 2011,

I am Haylen’s grandmother, and writing this for Haylen. She is 4 years old.

Haylen’s quote: “I love being with you Grandma and Bebop. I like staying with you. This is my home. Love to go camping and going to church.”

Haylen’s picture is of camping. Sunny day, red pickup, grey trailer, brown-red-yellow campfire. 3 people. Haylen, Grandma, Bebop.

Haylen calls her Grandfather Bebop.

Thank you,
Haylen & Grandma Harrisman
My Family. My Story.

Joseph, Age 9

Playing in the Snow.
A heartfelt thanks to our participants and to all our KinCare families, making a difference in children’s lives around the state of Idaho.
## Index

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Winning Entries</th>
<th>Distinguished Entries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Audrina ........6</td>
<td>Conner ........12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaycee ........7</td>
<td>Sitka .................13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabriella ......8</td>
<td>Alexis ........14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annika ........9</td>
<td>Joshua ..............15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Star .............10</td>
<td>Alakonn ........16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fabian ........11</td>
<td>Patience ........17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adelyn .............18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mia ................19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Akwa ................20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elizabeth ......21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jordan ............22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Haylen ...........23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joseph ........24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>