My Family. My Story.
2019

Expressions of Children Raised By Relatives
Or Other Significant Adults

I love to live with my Grandpa and Grandma. We do a lot of fun things together.
My Family. My Story.
Art Contest 2019

Organized by
IDHW Service Integration

This booklet can be found online at
www.211.idaho.gov
My Family. My Story.

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 arrangement is commonly referred to as “Kinship Care.”

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 Kinship Care 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, yet have the resiliency to share their experiences with others.

These are their families and their stories.

For more information about Kinship Care in Idaho visit: www.211.idaho.gov
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I like when my granma holds my hand because I feel safe with my grandpa.

Dalton  Age 4
I don't have to live in a car any more.
I have a house with a room and my own bed.
I have clothes.
I have my grandparents.
I have love.

Love from [name]

Starl  Age 7
I love to live with my Great Grandpa and Great Grandma. We do a lot of fun things together.

Our House

Belinda

Age 7
This is my Aunt and Uncle helping me with my homework. And I am lucky that I have them and they help me so much.

Avery

Age 7
I have good times with my family. They always take care of me and keep me happy. We are moving forward one step at a time to the future. We love each other very much. God keeps His promise.

by Haylen

Haylen   Age 6
Destiny  Age 5
When asked what makes Destiny happy, she drew a picture:
1. My Mamma (Grandmother)
2. Our house
3. Cherries
4. Apples

Destiny  Age 5
Adelyn Age 4

Grandma

Grandpa

Adelyn

in boxing lile
This is my uncle Bill
he comes everyday to see me at my grandmas where I live.

Taleah Age 5
Home is where I play and where I can be me. My family loves me. Nana and papa mean a lot to me.

Skylar       Age 7
Austyn

My family and our dog. ❤️ are lots of love.

Austyn  Age 5
Luna  Age 6
We have lots of going to the park
No fighting anymore. Have lots
of fun with cousins, Go to school
We write at school and
the End Go home after the park

Nerelie Age 6
My best part is my dad.

My mom is being happy.

I love my mom (Grandma) and making money doing chores for mom.

Baba and my brother Mark.

My best part is my dad.

Joshua Age 7
Hello, my name is Aurora. I live with my grandparents. I live with my grandparents because my parents did drugs. Living with my grandparents has made a positive impact and difference in my life because we don't move every year, I don't hear all the fighting and I don't have to see the police every other week or so. I don't have to worry about not having a roof over my head, I don't have to worry about not having food for dinner. I love knowing I can make friends at school and not having to leave them. I was so tired of only eating at school. I don't miss the power, water and all that turning off because my mom didn't pay the bills, and my mom stealing stuff is walking everywhere. But there are some things I miss like my mom, my friends, all the good times I had with my mom. But I am happy and safe where I am at and that's what matters.
One of the many ways my family has made a positive difference in my life is bringing me to church.
How I am

This is me

haha

These are my grandparents

Lynn

Oma

Corahama in Dutch

and my doge

Feervo doge

Chiwawa + pug

even though things get rough

We have a good relationship

What are you laughing about?

Ha ha

We are a great family

WINNING ENTRY

Derrick Age 11
My name is Kadence and I would like to tell you my story. It all started when my mom married my step-dad. His name is and my mom's name is .

So what happened was, once they were married, my mom was happy but my mom also did drugs. Anyways, my step-dad got abusive. Eventually my mom got mentally abusive. My step-dad was physically abusive. My mom and step-dad started to fight every day and every night. But he was mostly abusive to the girls like me, my mom, and my little sister, but there were other kids. He was also abusive to my baby brother who was 1-2 at the time. After a few years of abuse, and fighting, I asked my grandma to get a garden ship of me and she did. So now I live here always get what we want but I like it here a lot better.

I never want to see my mom again. thanks for listening. 

Kadence Age 11
Hi my name is Mayan. I am being raised by my great aunt and uncle who I call mom and dad. I've been permanently living here for 7 years but they've been helping take care of me my whole life. I live in a really nice house that I can do a lot of fun stuff at. I also have the opportunity to go to church and learn about the gospel. I feel like I am blessed to have parents that can take care of me and live like their own child.

Mayan Age 9
I've always had a happy family with my nana and jeeps and yes like every family we've faced some problems but we get through it together and we love each other with all our hearts, we share almost every thing if we can.

And of course I love my mom atom but she can't take care of me or my brothers.

By - Maddy

Maddy Age 9
My Papa, Nana, and I like to visit Island Park together.

This is me and my Nana after a hike.

This is me and Papa after a hike.

Krista Age 9
Ways living with my grandparents is changing my life. They take me to church, they pray with me before bed, they keep promises, they don’t forget about me, they are there for me, they love me; they help me on school work. And they are awesome and have really changed my life and are still helping me change today. I started living with my grandparents when I was 2. My name is Patience and I am 9 years old.

Patience
Age 9
More of flamy then drunk. People are drunk. Pleased with Pop and Nonna.

Yasmin  Age 10
How My Life Has Changed by Sammie

My life has changed a lot because of my aunt and uncle. In the past, which was actually two years ago on the 4th of July, my dad took me to see my aunt and uncle for a week, but as soon as I got there, I knew it was the right place for me. I said to my aunt, I want to live here forever and ever. My dad said no at first, then he said yes. It was the best thing I had ever heard.

I used to live in hotels and move every week. Now I have my own room and cool stuff. My aunt and uncle are the best.

Sammie  Age 8
The child (me)

Sammie

my Snickers my book

Sammie Age 8
MY LIFE EMMA

MY STORY

Emma

Age 8
My life is so great. I love it. My sister and Mick take great care of me. They give me a lot of stuff like food and drinks. And a room and clothes and toys. Skoot supplies and a TV and player DVDs and take me places and this.

The end.

Emma  Age 8
My Family, 
My Story

Emma
Age: 8

Emma  Age 8
Emma Age 8

I love my family alot. They are in my heart. I will never let them down.

And Mick is sooo cool. I like him and sis.

She is soo. Soo brave. alot lot and Bren he is so funny alot.

and me mest up alot but I can change reply them:
My family. My story

The way my story starts out is that I live with my Aunt and my Uncle. My Aunt and Uncle also took guardianship of my 5 year old sister. My Aunt and my Uncle have showed a positive difference in my life by not only showing me but proving to me that no matter how bad life does you can always turn it around. They have provided me more than just a family, they have provided me a home. Without their help I don't know where I'd be today. They have showed me Faith, Love, Courage, Warmth, and Happiness. My name is Kalylee and I'm 12 years old and that's my family. My story.

Kalylee Age 12
Fighting

Strangers

Family

Safe

Sports

Love

School

Drugs

Uncle

Cousin

Me

Auntie

Hate

Bryleigh  Age 16
Hi, my name is Bracken and I have to say living with my grandparents has made my life so much better. Because I'm not trapped inside at a place I can do fun things I get to hang out with friends, I don't get abuses any more. Someone once told me that I will never get anywhere in life but now I know that's not true. I get good grades at school. I get to do things like camping, hunting, fishing, go ATV rides, play sports.

I will do what it takes to be a good person in life and help kids that have gone through a tough time in their lives.

Thank you.

Bracken Age 14
This is my essay about how living with my grandma makes a positive impact. I'll be talking about things such as providing food, helping me with school, driving me to martial arts, and providing a home.

The first and possibly most positive outcome of living with my grandma is that I've never had to starve. My grandmother is a teacher. During the school year she goes to school and works hard for her paycheck. This allows her to buy a great quantity of groceries for the household of five people. Every food item she buys is enough to fill us up for all three meals of the day. I think her work ethic will stick with me when I have a family of my own.

Sometimes I don't do well in school. When I need help with homework, I go up to her room to ask for assistance. Even when she's busy, she stops what she's doing for a second and helps me with math, science, etc. Whenever I need help with homework, she is willing to help me if she is available.

My grandma cares that I can defend myself. I seem to get bullied at school, so one of my extracurricular activities is martial arts. Every Saturday, my grandma drives me to my class. I think of that class as a way to learn self-defense. If there's a situation where a bully physically hurts me, or tries to, I can use those skills against that person. This makes me feel confident when Grandma takes me there.

Last but not least, she provides a middle-class home for me to live in. My grandmother also uses money out of her paycheck to pay bills. Without her or her job, I wouldn't have a roof over my head, clean water or even gas for a working stove.

Overall, living with my grandma has had a very positive outcome. I am thankful for my privileges and feet she buy. I am also thankful for everything she does for me. That is all I have to say.

Brycen   Age 14
My name is Brian. I'm 15 yrs old, and me and my sister Madison both have lived with my grandma for about 14 yrs. My grandma takes good care of us. She's given up her life to raise us, and we love her for it. She is our grandmom.

Brian

Age 15
Samuel  Age 15

15 months ago I was arrested for possession of pot. I was given probation, put on house arrest, given 25 hrs. of community service, mandatory counseling and a hefty fine. Today, because of hard work and people who loved and cared about me, I am drug free, off house arrest, did my community service, off probation, and my fines are paid. I am free. I no longer feel like the "Grim Reaper" is on my heels.
CHANGE IS GOOD. LEARN TO ACCEPT IT.
Title: you can't speak butterfly language with caterpillar people

Joey  Age 17

I chose to draw this for the art contest because before, when I lived with my mom, I would bury and hide all my emotions. Until someone would upset me and I'd unleash all of my buried emotions on them. I'd freak out even if it was something small. But now my quiet pain has taught me to express my emotion and voice how I'm feeling instead of showing it all down and being scared to say anything. So now when someone or something upsets me I can calmly talk about it instead of being so hostile. My quiet has helped me grow so much and I'm so thankful for her.
My Grandma (my mom)

When I was born

My mother was wild as a storm
She was barely fifteen and too young
to care for me. My grandma stepped in and
with her is where I have always
been. She's my mom and has
been from day one. She gives me all
her care and love. I think she's
from Heaven above. She gave me a
place I knew I belonged. She's
my Rock because she's always there
and shown me how I can rise up from
any place, anywhere. She's shown me there
are options in life. The biggest choice
is not doing wrong, but doing right.
She's talked to me about school and
I like to go. I think it's cool. I can
be more than a mother and a wife.
The chosen college so I can have
a better life. I don't have to depend
on a man to hold my head high and
make my own plans. Being popular in
school is NOT what it's all about.
Education, happiness, good choices are
my way out. No drugs, drinking, no
poverty. That's the life I choose for me.
Because of love, support, and grace I can
and will make it in life, anywhere and anyplace.
I am a young woman who has been taught to be
kind, kind, and smart. I want women will always be me.
It has made my life different because it made me super happy living here. I didn't want to go to a foster home after my grandma passed away. I love it here a lot and everyone is super nice to me and they helped me a lot.

Chrisshell  Age 13
My Family. My Story.

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