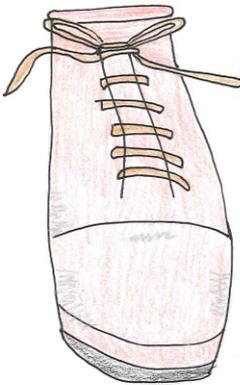


# My Family, My Story.

Expressions of children raised by relatives or other significant adults

## Grandpa's Shoes



They may not look like much in the light of day.  
Dirty, broken down, a little ratty lookin and torn.  
From the looks of them, you may even say; throw them away.

A few more holes from the days before,  
Their really getting harder to ignore.  
But, its business as usual as his feet hit the floor,  
No time to grumble or complain.  
Got to get up and out the door.

He's a hard workin man that grandpa of mine.  
Always willing to make a living for me and his wife.  
When I ask, "why he works so hard,?" He smiles and  
says, "Son, thats life."

At the end of each day, his battered ol' shoes  
are at last removed.  
I look at his feet and they have perfect little grooves.  
He stretches his toes and rubs his feet.  
He looks at me and says, "Son these shoes just  
can't be beat."

He's Shoes may be dirty, broken down and haggard,  
But, my grandpa is always upbeat.  
I only hope one day, I can fill his shoes.

*"I only hope one day, I can fill his shoes."*

-Tristin, Age 15

# My Family. My Story.

## **My Family. My Story. Art Contest 2015**

A project from the Idaho KinCare Program and the  
Department of Health and Welfare

This booklet can also be found online at  
[www.211.idaho.gov](http://www.211.idaho.gov).

# My Family. My Story.

## **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 custody arrangement is commonly referred to as 'kincare.'

In Idaho, there are 29,287 children under age 18 living in homes where the head of household are grandparents or other non-parent relatives. This equates to 6.8% of Idaho's children and youth. This is nearly 3 percent higher than the national average. Of these, 22,962 live with grandparents who are the householders and 6,325 live with other non-parent relatives. 10,161 children live in homes with grandparent householders where grandparents are responsible for them. Of these children, 4,592 have no parents present in the home (AARP, The Brookdale Foundation, Casey Family Programs, Child Welfare League of America, Children's Defense Fund, and Generations United, 2010).

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, 2015

## My Family . My Story .

For more information about KinCare in Idaho, visit [www.211.idaho.gov](http://www.211.idaho.gov) and follow the KinCare tabs.

# My Family . My Story .

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# My Family . My Story .

## Winning Contest Entry Ages 8 and Under

**Annika, Age 8**

When I was little I was really sick. I had a lot of problems. I also lived in a car when I was born. It was really sad and emotional. I always got sick. And my life got better. I moved with one of my Aunt's and then I moved with my other Aunt. And then my life got even better. I moved to my forever home to my Grandpa's house. He was the one who mostly took care of me and then he got married to my grandma. Now I have a normal life except I take medication to help me go to sleep and stay asleep, but I am good at a lot of different kinds of things.

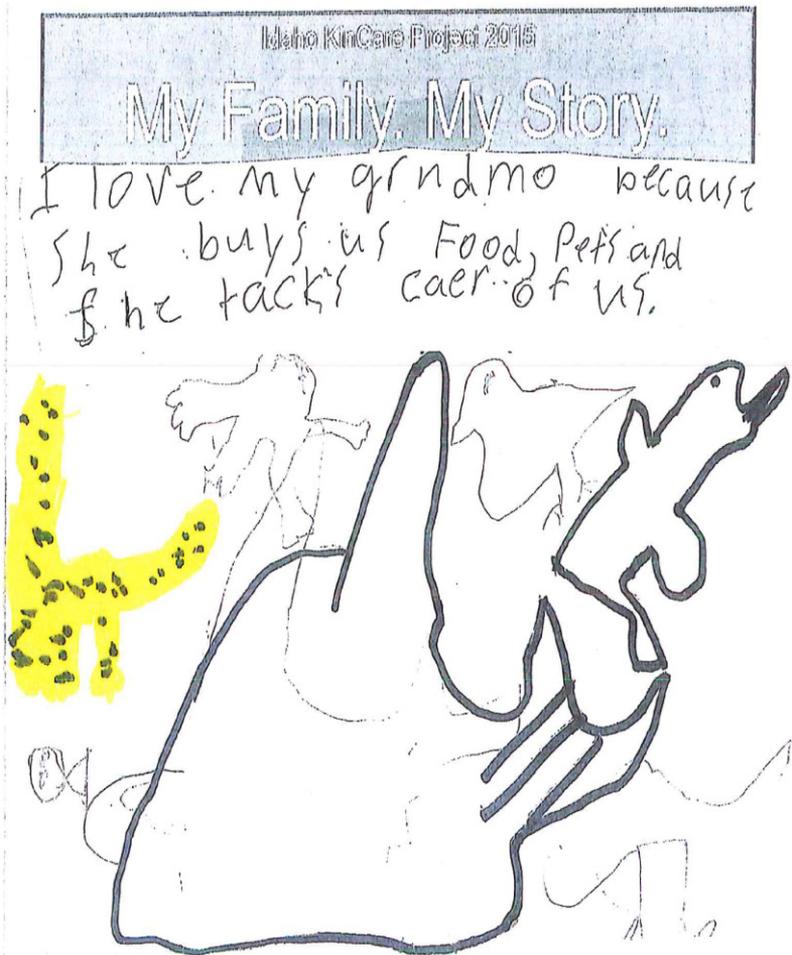


When I was born I was pretty sick. We lived in a car for the first about three months. It was a tough life I move from my Aunt Sunshine's house then to my other Aunt Jamie's house and then I move to my Grandma and Papa's house. So when I found my forever home we immediately started to go to a lot of doctors and Therapists to see me. I had a lot of things wrong and a lot of disabilities. Here are some of the disabilities and problems: I had drugs in my system, I cried a lot, I walked weird. I walked and talked later than I was supposed to. I used sign language to help me express my feelings. I got sick really easily. So now I can do a lot of cool things and I am doing a great job in school like I am over my reading level and I teach myself to do Gymnastics and right now I can do cartwheels, front handsprings, handstands, headstands, and backbends. And now I am as happy as a girl that does live with their parents. I don't care what people say. And Best of all I am in Girl Scouts. I am a junior.

# My Family. My Story.

## Winning Contest Entry Ages 8 and Under

Anthony, Age 8



# My Family . My Story .

## Winning Contest Entry Ages 9-13

Kadin, Age 11

I am 11 years old.

Hi, I am Kadin. I live in St. Maries, Idaho. I love living with my Grandma Patti. I am so happy she takes care of me. I have been living with her for 1 year. I am in 5<sup>th</sup> grade going into 6<sup>th</sup>. I love living with my Grandma Patti because she takes me to places I've never been to! I like going places with her; we explore a lot of things. I just moved to this town. I have a lot of friends. It was kinda hard going to a new school. But I like it now. I have friends that care a lot about me and my feelings. I am so glad I met them. My grandma means a lot to me. I love her more than she loves me. I have no idea what I would do without her. Also I am in Student Council. We get to do a lot of things like selling popcorn, and doing Jack Friday stuff. It is a lot of fun. And I am in Girl Scouts. We do a lot of fun stuff. We sell a lot of cookies!

In Girl Scouts we go on a lot of trips. My grandma is the "bestest" grandma I've ever had! This summer we are going to Seattle! We are going to be a big Happy FAMILY! Me, my papa, grandma, sisters, mom are going to be there. I wanna have the best time ever.

I am sorry if I have more than 200 words. It's just I wanna tell you about my family story.

# My Family . My Story .

## Winning Contest Entry Ages 9-13

Eli, Age 12

### WHY I LIKE LIVING WITH NANA AND KATIE

There are so many things that Nana and Katie do for me and I love them whenever they love me. The first reason why I love Nana and Katie is that they gave me a better place to live, and taught me about Jesus and gave me healthier food to eat, and gave me love. Some kids are not lucky and some are just lucky, but life is not fair. My life did not go so well but God had better plans for my life. Nana and Katie gave what was necessary like a Bible, food, school, and a shower so that I can wash my hair. The most important thing is that you spent time with God and your family. The things that Nana and Katie provide for me are from their hearts and they love me and I love them back, but the most important thing is that you put God always first.

THE END

I am Eli's guardian grandmother. I am also his home school teacher. Knowing that he does not like to write, and so would not want to enter the contest, I assigned him an English paper on "Why I like living with Nana and Katie". I was surprised at his enthusiasm and declaration that the assignment would be easy. He worked on the assignment a bit for several days and today presented me with the enclosed essay. I then told him about the contest and asked his permission to submit it. He agreed and printed his name on the form. Thank you for the contest. It was



...a blessing for me to read what Eli wrote about living with me. I have had him for eight years.

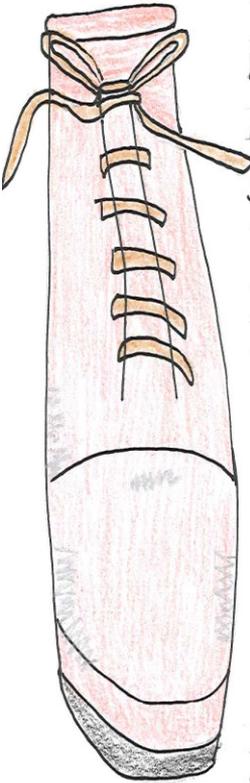
Sincerely,  
Dawn Rice

# My Family . My Story .

## Winning Contest Entry Ages 14+

Tristn, Age 15

### Grandpa's Shoes



They may not look like much in the light of day.  
Dirty, broken down, a little ratty lookin and torn.  
From the looks of them, you may even say; throw them away.

A few more holes from the days before,  
Theit really getting harder to ignote.  
But its business as usual as his feet hit the floor,  
No time to grumble or complain.  
Got to get up and out the door.

He's a hard wotkin man that grandpa of mine.  
Always willing to make a living for me and his wife.  
When I ask, "why he works so hard,?" He smiles and  
says, "Son, thats life."

At the end of each day, his battered ol' shoes  
are at last removed.  
I look at his feet and they have perfect little grooves.  
He stretches his toes and tubs his feet.  
He looks at me and says, "Son these shoes just  
can't be beat."

He's shoes may be dirty, broken down and haggard,  
But, my grandpa is always upbeat!  
I only hope one day, I can fill his shoes.

## Winning Contest Entry Ages 14+

Jade, Age 17

As I'm reaching the age of eighteen, I realize adulthood is a bit scary, but the great thing is all the opportunity that opens up. One opportunity I've recently been introduced to is joining the military. Growing up, my grandpa has taken care of me all my life and it has made a very positive difference in my life. My grandpa was in the Army for twenty years. Sure, it's a little rough living with someone who's tougher on me than my mom would be, but I see it as a good thing because he's taught me to be a better person. A few months ago, a Navy recruiter visited my school. While he was talking to our class, I got this strong feeling I needed to consider my life more and the Navy had so many answers to how I was going to make something of myself. On March 23 of 2015, I was sworn into the Navy. It was a huge step for me and I'm glad I took it. My grandpa's military background really influenced my decision to join. He's made a very positive difference in my life and now I think I'm going to be ready for what's to come in the future.

# My Family . My Story .

## Distinguished Contest Entries Ages 8 and under

Anthony, Age 6



# My Family. My Story.

## Distinguished Contest Entries Ages 8 and under

Isabela, Age 3



# My Family . My Story .

## Distinguished Contest Entries Ages 8 and under

Alyssa, Age 8

She helps me with my home work.   
She has fun with me,   
I Love her and she Loves me.   
and that's how it's upast to be. 



# My Family . My Story .

## Distinguished Contest Entries Ages 8 and under

Jazlynn, Age 8



# My Family . My Story .

## Distinguished Contest Entries Ages 8 and under

Gabriella, Age 8



I love my Grandma because she watches over me and she helps me with my homework and she does fun things with me like going to the movies, or the park, the Discovery Center, the zoo, or Roaring Springs. My grandma is the best grandma ever. That's why I choose my grandma to watch over me while my parents are away and they can't watch me. I love my grandma so much. I would only choose my grandma to watch me.

# My Family . My Story .

## Distinguished Contest Entries Ages 8 and under

Aubrey, Age 7

Hi my name is Aubrey.  
My mom and dad  
were doing drugs. My  
grandma took us  
in so we would not  
have to go to foster  
care. She worked  
and took care  
of us. Grandma

Hi my name is Aubrey.  
My mom and dad were doing drugs.  
My grandma took us in so we would not  
have to go to Foster Care. She worked  
and took care of us. Grandma

# My Family . My Story .

## Distinguished Contest Entries Ages 8 and under

Lily, Age 8

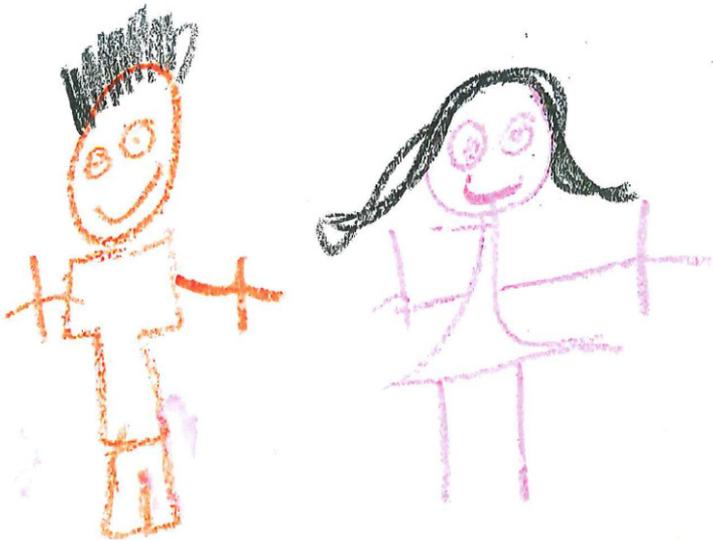




# My Family . My Story .

## Distinguished Contest Entries Ages 8 and under

Natalie, Age 8



# My Family . My Story .

## Distinguished Contest Entries Ages 8 and under

Nicholas, Age 8

It's fun I get to play lots of sports like  
base ball, Soccer, wrestling, Dance.



It's fun. I get to play lots of sports like  
baseball, soccer, wrestling; dance.

# My Family . My Story .

## Distinguished Contest Entries Ages 8 and under

Sebastian, Age 4



# My Family . My Story .

## Distinguished Contest Entries Ages 8 and under

Xavier, Age 8



# My Family . My Story .

## Distinguished Contest Entries Ages 9-13

Daisy, Age 10



# My Family . My Story .

## Distinguished Contest Entries

Ages 9-13

Jayden, Age 10

I live with my aunt and uncle and I see my mom every Saturday. I call her every other day. On Mondays I see my Nana and she will take me to counseling, and on the other days of the week I'm with my aunt and uncle. I'm doing a drawing to show my feelings. ☺



# My Family . My Story .

## Distinguished Contest Entries Ages 9-13

Angel, Age 12



I love  
my grandma  
because she  
protects us like  
a cheeta

I love my grandma because she protects us  
like a cheetah.

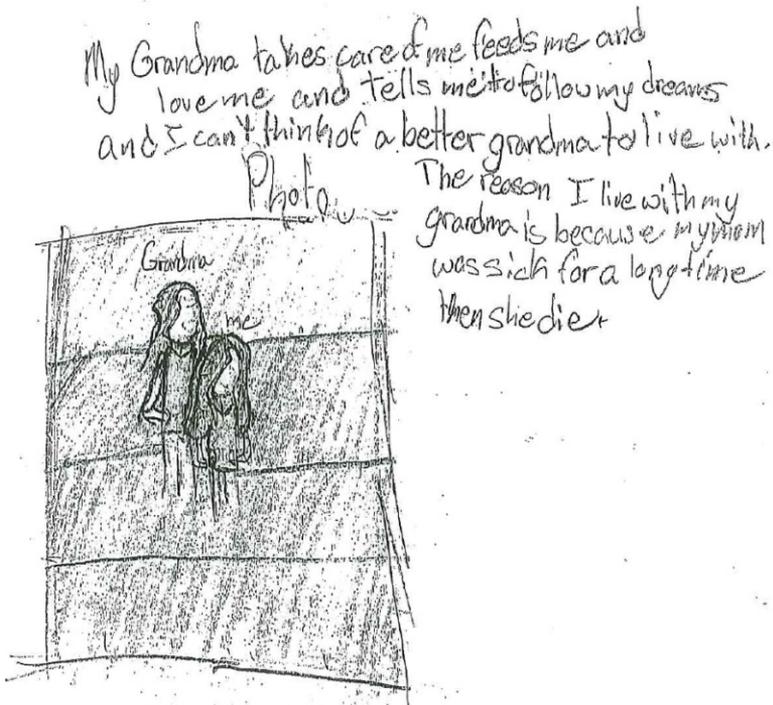
# My Family . My Story .

## Distinguished Contest Entries Ages 9-13

Davina, Age 10

My Grandma takes care of me, feeds me and loves me and tells me to follow my dreams and I can't think of a better grandma to live with.

The reason I live with my grandma is because my mom was sick for a long time and then she died.



# My Family . My Story .

## Distinguished Contest Entries Ages 9-13

Jazmin, Age 12

Once upon a time my family was once  
in Mexico. We loved the place. It was  
filled with all beautiful things. But this day  
was really special... It was a day to us,  
the kids. **It was our day to be**  
**happy and share our Happiness to**  
**Everyone** Today, we are happy to have  
that day Today! The End

Once upon a time my family was once in Mexico. We loved the place. It was filled with all beautiful things. But this day was really special... It was a special day to us the kids. **It was our day to be happy and share our Happiness to Everyone.** Today, we are happy to have that day Today! The End

# My Family . My Story .

## Distinguished Contest Entries Ages 9-13

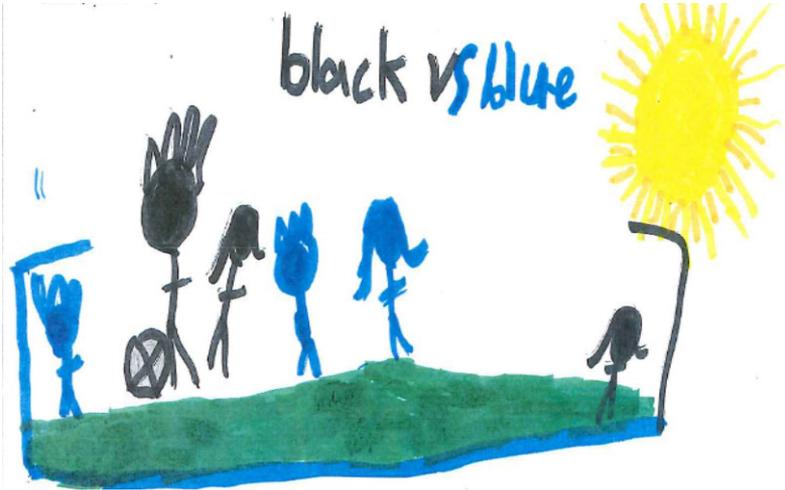
Elise, Age 9



# My Family . My Story .

## Distinguished Contest Entries Ages 9-13

Jhoanny, Age 10



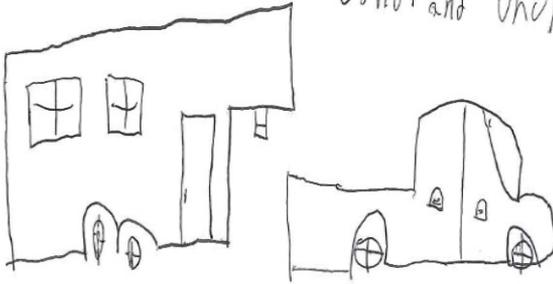
I love my Grandma because she helps me with soccer.

# My Family . My Story .

## Distinguished Contest Entries Ages 9-13

Joseph, Age 9

We all was go camping, in the  
summer. my parents dont take use  
camping. But aunt and uncle do.



We all go camping in the summer. My parents don't take us camping, but our aunt and uncle do.

# My Family . My Story .

## Distinguished Contest Entries Ages 9-13

**Marcus, Age 11**

Hello, my name is Marcus. Since I was young (3 months old) I've lived with my Grandma Lori. I've grown to call her Mom now, but that's beside the point. But just because I live with my granny doesn't mean I don't have a story of my own.

You see before I was 3 months, I had a mom. A real one and she did her best to take care of me. But she wasn't very good at it. When CPS came, it became worse for my mom. She didn't want to take me to foster care so she asked my mew mom and she said yes.

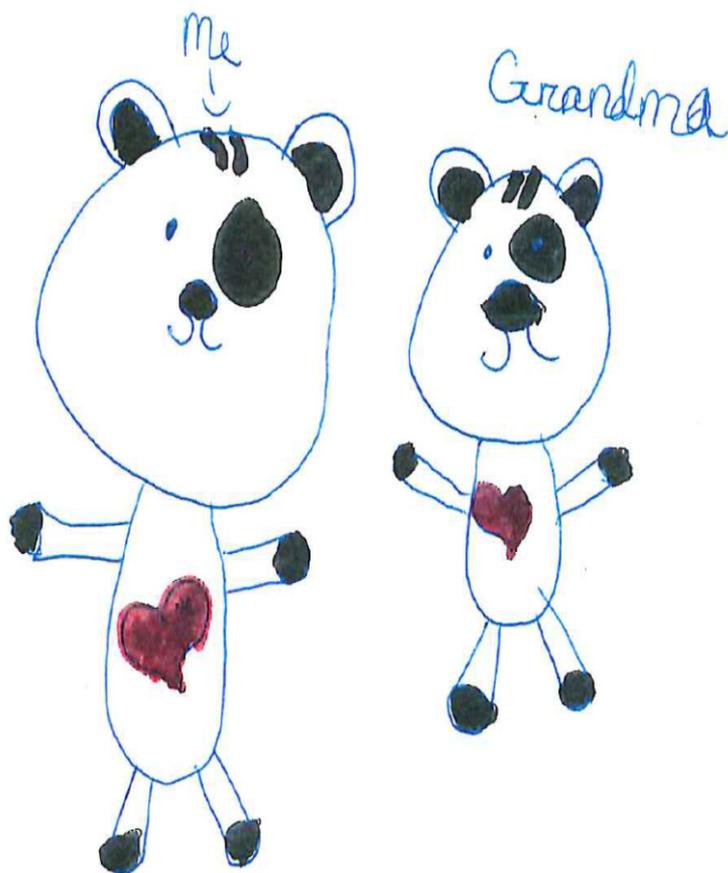
So now I'm here writing this. An 11-year old boy writing this. How amazing is that? This has been fun to write. Thanks and have a good day! But before I go I have to tell you the positive stuff. Here I'll list them. I'm happy, healthy, satisfied, play trumpet; I'm in Boy Scouts, in soccer, go to church, do good in school, have a dog, my mom's a good cook, I have lots of friends, and I get to see my real dad, my mom/granny shows me pictures of my real mom, I get to see my cousins. Living with my grandma has been the best.

Thanks for reading.  
From: Marcus

# My Family . My Story .

## Distinguished Contest Entries Ages 9-13

Mia, Age 10



# My Family . My Story .

## Distinguished Contest Entries Ages 9-13

Rainie, Age 10

Hi. I'm Rainie.... I live in St. Maries, Idaho. I live with my Grandma Patti. She is so nice. I love her with all of my heart. She took care of me for a year. She took me to places I never been to. And I'm in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade going into 4<sup>th</sup> grade. My grandma is so nice. She put me into Girl Scouts. I always wanted to be in Girl Scouts. I love my grandma and I know she loves me even more. I love living with my grandma. She is the best thing that ever happened to me. And my grandma said she is gonna take me to an aquarium. That is gonna be so fun. I'm so glad to live with my grandma. I love her to the moon and back. She is the best. She is my heart. She is everything to me. She makes me so happy that she makes me cry, and we pray every night. I love her so much and we pray every day. She is only 58 and she is not mean. And my grandma is very pretty. And she loves me very, very much. And that is why I live with my grandma.

# My Family . My Story .

## Distinguished Contest Entries Ages 9-13

Rosa, Age 11

### Uncle Johnny

Uncle Johnney made a positive difference in my life by helping me through life when I was young. He helped me with my homework, he always calls, and he tries to tell me to help him some times, but I don't always listen to him, and I try to make food for him, but sometimes he doesn't always take it.

# My Family . My Story .

## Distinguished Contest Entries Ages 9-13

Taylor, Age 10

I love living with my grandma because she keeps me safe and gets me what we need or want. My brother and I have been living with our grandma for 5 years. I came here when I was in kindergarten. When we came down my brother was in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The reason why I live with my grandma is because my parents had made some bad decisions. My mom, brother, and I flew on a plane from Washington to Idaho. That was 5 years ago. Ever since then, I have been living with her. I have loved it very much.

Sincerely,  
Taylor C.

## Distinguished Contest Entries Ages 9-13

Zoe, Age 9

### Idaho Adventure

Living with my Aunt and Uncle has been exiting because I've really got to learn a lot about what they like to do. What I've learned is they like to plant gardens and flowers, go swimming, cook, and spend time with family. What I've got to do since I've lived here is dance lessons, go swimming, play baseball, go shopping together, play outside and tons and tons more things. I like spending time with my family because, they are so special to me and they mean a lot to me. What I do with my cousins is hair, ride bikes, jump on the trampoline, play board games, and play on the Wii. I have tons of fun playing with them and spending time with them. I love my family so much!

# My Family . My Story .

## Distinguished Contest Entries Ages 14+

Celilia, Age 17

I thank my grandma for taking me in and providing for me. Taking me in was one of the hardest things for her because I'm trouble and really don't listen. I would always think I was my own boss, until one day she called the cops on me. I realized that listening would be the thing I should do. Living with her changed my whole life around. I want thank her for putting up with me.

# My Family . My Story .

## Distinguished Contest Entries Ages 14+

Katelyn, Age 16



Hello, my name is Katelyn. I drew a picture of my whole family. Well, besides my cousin Hannah. I drew this because, before I lived with my aunt and uncle, I lived with my mother. I met my grandparents once when I was seven and that's it. I was visiting with my mother at counseling when she told me that my aunt and uncle would like me to live with them. I got all excited thinking it was my Uncle Danny which I met when I saw my grandparents. My mother said, "No, your Uncle Steve and Aunt Debbie." I said, "Who is that?" I never met them before. In fact, I never met anyone else in my family before. I finally got to meet them about a year and a half ago. They picked me up and I met my cousin, Amy, and knew right away that they were there to love me and that I was meant to live with them.

# My Family . My Story .

## Distinguished Contest Entries Ages 14+

Nathan, Age 16

### Life With Grandpa

My Grandpa is great.  
He likes to use bait.  
He's nice and kind  
And when he gets into a bind  
He finds the solution in the  
Most unique kind of way.  
I dread the day  
The day, I have to leave.  
I want to believe!  
Believe I can stay  
That's just the way.

--By Nathan

# My Family . My Story .

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# Thank You

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