

## Caring for My Grandmother

Andrea Anderson

I thought long and hard about this assignment, because honestly there are very few things that I am proud of. Of course I am proud of my children, my grandchild, my husband and the rest of my family. I never viewed these things as successes. I was always taught that if you live right good things will happen to you. So I never thought that they were successes, I viewed these things as being gifts from God for trying to live right.

One of my greatest success stories in my opinion was the care given to my grandmother by me. I come from a large family. My mother and father have five children and I am the eldest. Both of my parents worked full-time and so my grandmother moved into our home to take care of us while my parents worked. She would cook, clean and basically do whatever needed to be done for us.

When I was twelve years old, my mother's only sister died, and my parents adopted her four children. At the time we lived in a two bedroom house. So my grandmother took her retirement money and expanded our house. So now we had a four bedroom and two bath house. During this time my grandmother took on more duties. We always came home to a clean house, clean clothes and a hot meal. My parents always preached to us about the importance of a high school education. All of us graduated high school and seven of us have a college degree.

It was during this time that my grandmother suffered a stroke. Everyone had grown up and left home, living their own lives. Even me. So the only alternative was a nursing home.

I decided to come home and take care of her. She had given so much of herself to all of us, that it was only right that I sacrifice something in the name of love for her. Everyone said that I could not do it, but I was determined. I took care of her unconditionally. Her mind started suffering and she became more mean and dependent. I knew that it was her illness that was causing this type of behavior, so I persevered. In the end I knew that she understood and knew how much she was loved.

Taking care of my grandmother was my greatest success. It taught me patience, compassion and understanding. It is because of this lesson, that I want to become a person who works and helps students with disabilities. I want them to know that someone cares.

This is my personal success story. I thank Willie. Royal, my grandmother, for being my inspiration and I know that she is my guiding light.

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