

Letters of Hope

When I saw that the prompt for the Adams County Library writing essay was 'My COVID-19 Kindness Story' I was honestly confused. Like most people, I was put in quarantine, and told not to leave the house or interact with other people. I mean how would you be able to show kindness without seeing anyone? Impossible, right?

Wrong. My story is just one of the ways I learned that kindness is not limited to face to face interactions.

One day I was sitting in my room staring off into the distance, not knowing what to do with myself because everything around me was being cancelled. I picked up my phone and opened a YouTube video since I had nothing to do, or so I thought.

I sat there watching YouTube for a while until a video popped up on my screen, "50 Things to do in Quarantine."

Hmm, I thought as I clicked on the video, maybe this would help.

I proceeded to watch the video until it came to number ten.

10: Write Letters.

Once I saw that suggestion, I immediately had a ton of inspiration to write a letter. I mean when was the last time I had time to write one? Not a text or email, but actually write a genuine paper letter. I started with just one, to a close friend. The letter was soon finished, addressed, and stamped.

That was actually fun , I thought to myself. One more wouldn't hurt.

That was the biggest lie ever.

Writing one letter was so addicting that I continued to write more. One turned into eight, which turned into fifteen, which turned into... well, you get the picture. I just continued to write letters until I didn't know whom else I could write to, but I had this itching feeling that I should write more. That's when I thought about my Grandmother.

My Grandmother was living at a nursing home until she passed away in March. The same day she passed away, the nursing home called saying that they were not allowing anyone to visit. The thought of not being able to see anyone, not even your family, saddened me. I knew if my grandmother were still alive,

I wouldn't want her to think we didn't want to see her. I thought about the other residents at that moment.

What could I do? What would I want if I was in that situation?

Of course I would want my family, but I couldn't do that for them, so I decided to write letters. I wrote a bunch of letters and added a drawing, plus an encouraging Bible verse so they wouldn't lose hope.

My mom helped me stamp, address, and send off the letters. I included a little note asking the nursing home workers to give the letters to "people that needed the most encouragement." It made me feel good that people may be encouraged during this hard time by something I did. Something they received. A letter from a stranger, who without COVID-19 would never have thought that anyone would enjoy one.

Everyone needs a little bit of kindness in their lives, whether it comes from a place, a person, or a letter from a teenager in quarantine. My wish is that my letters showed just that. Kindness.

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