

Sierra Rasmussen

Touching Peoples Lives

By Sierra Rasmussen (English 12 assignment for Mrs. Kerley, 10/03/03)

Throughout my life I have overcome many obstacles, which I have worked very hard to achieve. My major accomplishment is how I've changed many people's perception of people with disabilities. People with disabilities are often judged by their appearance, but each one can offer a special gift. You might not be able to reach a person, but a special needs person might bring out the best in them. I have had this experience many times.

When I was in the 7th grade, I had a class where my aide couldn't be with me. There was this girl who was a troublemaker and Mrs. Roe asked her to help me. After awhile she started coming to class more because she knew she had a responsibility. Her grades started coming up since I helped her with class work. My mom met with Mrs. Roe and told her about this. She said although she was helping Sierra, Sierra was helping her more.



Last year, I had Mrs. White and again my aide couldn't be with me. I had a friend in there that I lost track of, but we got reacquainted. On projects we would always work together, she would do the drawing and I would do the math. Mrs. White said that I helped Elizabeth feel important and overcome the fear of computers. I just found out that Mrs. White's mom was a principal and she was worried about a new student with C.P. (Cerebral Palsy). So Mrs. White told her about me and I guess it gave her some relief. It makes me feel good when I can touch people and not even realize I did.

My grandpa was a crusty old cowboy. He was a strict, stern man, but it was a different story when I came around. I had him wrapped around my finger. My uncle is exactly like his dad. Although his exterior was rough and gruff, I know he's just a big teddy bear inside. My main purpose in life is to open people's eyes to something they've never seen.

I have paved a way for others to follow and I hope it continues to grow. It amazes me how I can touch people I've never met. Even though I don't like my C.P., I know that it is a gift I can use. I have changed a lot of people's minds about disabled people. You can be an influence to someone just by how you live, so be the best you can be.



200 West Broadway; Farmington, New Mexico 87401
Phone/Fax: 505-325-8998; www.thearc-thriftown.org