

**Black History Month Scholarship Essay**  
**“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give”**  
**By Morgan Smith, 5<sup>th</sup> Grader, Nap Ford Community School**

Imagine living in a world where you are judged by the way you look deeper than your clothes something you can't change ... your skin color. All of this was true until a speck of hope came in 1862 when Abraham Lincoln gave his “Emancipation Proclamation” speech, then 101 years later when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his “I have a dream” speech. Over the years things got better and better for African Americans and then on January 20, 2009, Barack Obama was elected president. He is the first African American to be president of the United States of America. It's very visible that our nation has come a long way and will continue to progress toward racial equality!

“At the center of nonviolence is love.” I go to school in the Parramore community. Parramore is one of the most impoverished communities in Florida. Once upon a time Parramore was a wealthy community where the African American middle class lived. Then in the blink of an eye drugs, violence and alcohol came into the community. Before you knew it the doctors and lawyers were replaced by drug addicts and drug dealers.

As a child there is only so much you can do to make the world a better place. But the real things you do to change the world are the little things. Such as picking up a piece of paper that fell on the floor, tutoring a child in the first grade, organizing a toy drive for children in the homeless shelter or putting on a show with your friends at a retirement home. You would be so surprised that the little things make all the difference.

When I get older I want to be editor and chief of my own teenage girl empowerment magazine that includes success stories and ways to improve yourself and your life. Once I get old enough to volunteer I want to do as much as I can to give back to my community. As soon as I start my magazine, I'm going to give 10% of the proceeds to teens suffering from cancer and other life threatening diseases. I have big dreams and it's not going to be easy to make them a reality but that's a risk I'll have to take.