

This iBelieve Essays

The Power of a Family

by Jennifer Rendon

I believe that if I have my family by my side, then I won't have to be alone in the difficult world. If they have my back and they are there when I need them, then I know I'm not facing the real world alone.

When I was about five years old, I watched a movie called *Lilo and Stitch*. The movie was about two sisters going through big challenges, and they faced these challenges together. I remember watching it with my cousins and my younger brother. We would laugh when something funny happened, cry when something sad happened, and just have a wonderful time as a family. One of my favorite quotes from the movie is, "*Ohana* means family. Family means nobody gets left behind or forgotten." This shows how a family is always there for each other, no matter what. They have each other's back. This movie was when I realized that my family will always mean the world to me.

That quote has always been my guide. Whenever I needed to get something out of my chest, I would go to my mom. I remember when I was about eleven years old, my grades weren't so good. Once my parents got my report card; my mom went to my room and talked to me instead of getting mad at me. She asked why my grades were low. She knew it wasn't like me to not care about school and my grades. I told her that I wasn't really feeling good. I remember my best friend moved away at that time. I knew that school would be different without him. She said, "The world doesn't wait for you. Life is going to continue and you shouldn't just sit down and let opportunities that come your way go." This was one of the moments when I knew that my parents were going to be there for me. They were going to be with me to get through the rough times and give me advice when I needed it.

After I realized that my parents were always going to be there, I made sure to make my little brothers see that too. Since my brother is a little overweight, I knew that there are going to be people who are going to judge him because of that, even though he is still young. I remember one time, we were at the park and he wanted to play soccer. The kids that were playing said no because of his weight. I remember feeling hatred and my anger rising because they were judging my brother based on his weight. I went up to the kids and told them that they shouldn't judge my brother because of his weight and that they had the chance to play soccer with a good player. I remember taking my brother home and telling him, "If anyone judges you, you can always come to me, talk about it and I'll listen." I wanted him to feel that cared a lot for him. I want him to feel like we, our family, are always going to be there for him. I wanted both of my brothers to know we are here for them because that's the way I feel.

I'm growing up and facing the world. I don't know what is going to happen and come my way, but I do know that my family is going to be there when life knocks me down. I will always remember the day I realized that family is the most important thing in my life and they will always be there for me. I will remember feeling happy and having a good time with my cousins and siblings. I will always feel safe and at home when I'm with my family.