Holding Onto You

Life is too short to waste time. Sadly, I had only realized this a few years ago. Cherishing moments with my family is something I took for granted. All the days I've wasted, all the hours on my phone, all down the drain. Looking back, I only had a few hours of my life spent with my grandpa. I only remember a few times I helped my family before he passed. I'm glad I was able to balance my life with all the necessities we needed to help him out, but I wish I did more.

Three years ago, my grandpa was very old and we knew he wasn't going to last much longer. While my grandparents were staying at my aunties house, my grandpa needed a lot of assistance from everyone. During this time everyone had online school due to Covid-19. Each day, every sibling and cousin would bike over and help, whether that was feeding, cleaning, or keeping him company. For me, I would come willingly to do whatever my grandparents needed me to do because in my mind, this is how I gave back to them.

Furthermore, balancing school and going over to my aunties house for a few hours each day was difficult, but was always worth it. Learning to adapt between getting schoolwork done and kindly taking care of my grandpa took some time. During this time, I realized how much helping out my grandpa had helped my grandma just as much.

Since it was always just my grandma and grandpa the past few years, living far from us, my grandma always took care of my grandpa. It took a lot of work and dedication for my grandma to always watch over him. Whenever I was able to clean the house, feed my grandpa, or even just make him smile, my grandma was able to relax. I saw this as a win-win situation that worked out for the both of us.
In addition, in the few weeks my grandparents stayed at my aunties house, I was able to help a lot. In my case, just doing the smallest deeds made an immense change toward the end. By me making little jokes and being able to crack a small smile on my grandpa's face, has helped him enjoy the moments before he was gone. During this time, it was very emotional for me as I have never lost anyone close to me yet. But now looking back at all those fond memories we had together, I wish I had spent more time with him.

Throughout my entire life, I had always been taught to think of others first before myself. My parents taught me to serve others and I now find joy in helping people too. It makes me happy to put others before myself. For me, helping my grandpa was my first priority. I knew I wouldn’t have much time left with him, so I made sure every moment counted. Looking back, I’m glad I finally took the time to realize helping others, by even the smallest deed, can make a huge impact.

From this experience I have been able to learn and grow in many different ways. While doing this act of kindness towards my grandpa, my eyes were finally opened, and I saw how precious life is. Losing someone and having regrets is definitely not the best feeling to have. Even though I feel like I could’ve helped a little more, I am still glad I was able to do my part. I was also able to learn how physically helping someone is harder than you think it would be. At every moment you need to be keeping an eye on the person you are helping. In my case, I always made sure my grandpa was safe and relaxed. This was a great life experience and definitely an eye opener for me.

It's been more than a year since my grandpa left this earth, and I have never been the same. In life we are given various opportunities to serve others. Whether we
want to or not, I say take that opportunity, you won't regret it later. In my past, I was able to show an act of kindness by helping my grandpa weeks before he sadly passed. Remembering everything I have done to help him rest peacefully is something I am so grateful I took part in. Doing an act of kindness doesn't need to be this grand gesture. It can be as small as smiling at someone, or just holding the door open for a random stranger. The next time you see an opportunity, take it willingly, and smile along.