

## “Our Dream”

We all dream of a perfect world filled with happiness and peace, but the problem is most of us don't take the action needed to fulfill that dream. We all want the discrimination and harassment to end, but is there a way to accomplish this feat by doing nothing? No, and as Gandhi believed, “You must be the change you want to see in the world.” We need to work together and help the people around us who are being oppressed and bullied. Just like Miep Gies, Johannes Kleiman, Victor Kugler, and Bep Voskuijl who helped Anne Frank and her family get through the holocaust. These individuals made a change in several lives, which is something we should all strive to do.

Most of us have witnessed bullying or know what it is, but do any of us do anything to stop it? The ones who do are the real heroes. According to the article: “The Helpers”, “ Otto Frank asks the helpers if they are prepared to help him and his family and the Van Pels family. “All four immediately agreed, though they were fully aware of the dangerous task they would be taking upon themselves them in doing so.” The people who despite knowing the risks want to make a change are the ones making our dream come to life. Anne Frank writes, “Never have they uttered a single word about the burden we must be, never have they complained that we were too much trouble.” Sacrificing their life to do what is right. I once did so myself.

Whenever I am visiting India I am always reminded of the day I made a difference in someone's life. “ You disgusting little cockroach, so tiny and scrawny. You can't even do anything, you little hopeless fool,” uttered a little boy at the age of nine to

my cousin Kshitij Bharadwaj. This bullying has been going on for quite a while now and even though many people were around, no one cared to interfere. When I visited India I witnessed these remarks, and I thought it was no big deal as these were little kids who were probably just teasing my cousin. So I just said to my cousin "Come on, let's go home. It's really nothing." The next day we got up early and took our bikes to the park across his house. The kids who had been teasing him lived just around the corner. We were biking throughout the neighborhood when I heard something. The same children from yesterday had come up with some more snarky, arrogant remarks. I was fed up with this nonsense, so I told them to stop poking fun at my cousin. Then me and Kshitij got on our bikes and started riding to his house. Suddenly I felt a little shot of pain on my back, and I turned around and saw a stone hurtling at me with perfect aim. Those kids had been assaulting us because I told them to stop bullying my cousin. Even though I was afraid to say something because they might hurt us again, I knew this needed to end. I then proceeded and informed their parents of what was going on and they immediately apologized for their children's hasty actions.

This situation along with the holocaust really opened my eyes to the world around us because I noticed that we could always find a way to help people. According to "Anne Frank's The Diary of a Young Girl" Anne writes "Helpers, who have managed to pull us through so far and will hopefully bring us safely to shore, because otherwise they'll find themselves sharing the fate of those they're trying to protect." These helpers were able to aid many who were victims of discrimination while facing their own challenges. According to the article "The Helpers", "The employees of Otto Frank's

companies helped the people hiding in the Annex. They provided food and much-needed morale boosts. Without these individuals, hiding in the Annex would have been impossible.” Their efforts saved many lives. Similarly, I made an attempt to prevent some children from bullying others. By doing simple little things like this we are always one step closer to reaching the dream of our perfect world.

Our world has come a long way. Many issues of the past have been resolved and new ones are being created. We must work together as one to eliminate these small imperfections such as bullying and discrimination. Then again there are always the struggles that linger in our lives.