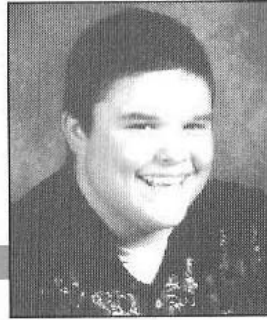

Heroes Essay Contest 2009

Taylor Boyd

Essay Winner : Grades 9-12

Harrison High School



"I think a hero is an ordinary individual who finds strength to preserve and endure in spite of over whelming obstacles." This was once quoted by Christopher Reeve to describe a hero like my neighbor of four years, Billy Nally, because Billy was there for me. My Dad got addicted to the rock that did not roll. He was always leaving to go get a cheap high. My dad forgot about his little boy, but Billy, he was there. When I was low on money and needed a few things Billy never hesitated to throw some chores my way. Yes, he was strict and did not accept anything but perfection, but Billy, he was there. When the car would not start, or I missed the bus, or needed a helping hand, I knew whom I could turn to every single time. I would walk over to Billy's house because Billy, he was there. When my Dad decided he would choose drugs over his family my mom said that was it, so they split. With that came responsibilities of a newborn and toddler, because my mom could not do it all alone, but Billy, he was there. When I could not speak, Billy knew just what to say. In my darkest times when I cried myself to sleep Billy would just pop in the right type of movie, make some popcorn, sit, and chill with me because Billy, he was there. When my mom was crying, the baby was yelling, and my sister driving me crazy, and all of those demons inside wanted to burst out inside of me, Billy came and calmed me down before I would scream and shout. Because Billy, he was there. When Billy's heart became weaker than it should, he had to go away to get better. He always knew how to make me smile and make me feel like I belonged. So I sat at home waiting until the day he came home praying he would be okay because Billy, he was there for me. Well, Billy got better because of prayers, but inside I always knew he would because Billy was my Superman. He taught me lessons of life like the value of a dollar and not to give up on the world. Billy taught me how to be a better man, the man that I am today. That is why I believe Billy Nally is the greatest hero of them all. Because Billy, he was always there."