

## What I am Most Thankful For

Thanksgiving, a time to show gratitude for what we have, is forthcoming. There are many things to be grateful for on Thanksgiving, such as family and friends. But every so often, we take things for granted. But on Thanksgiving, I am most thankful for the glorious gift of freedom, the glorious gift of being an American. That endowment I will never take for granted.

Freedom is a scarce gift since not all countries are as developed as the United States of America. Some countries are fighting for it, while others have practically no opportunity to receive it. Once, America had no freedom and was under British rule. Life was different and much more difficult back then than it is now. But we fought a long and grueling war for our rights and now we are unified together as the United States of America, where freedom lives.

That is what I am most thankful for: freedom. All these brutal, seemingly never ending wars and dreadful terrorist attacks make freedom seem like something that is valuable and rare. Which makes my life in a free country something I am grateful for. So this Thanksgiving, I am proud to be an American, an individual with freedom and free will. If you took away freedom from the United States of America, you would have nothing.

# Senator Jack M. Martins



## 2011 Sixth Grade Thanksgiving Essay Contest Entry Form

### WHAT ARE YOU MOST THANKFUL FOR...?

I am thankful for many things, but the one thing in particular that I am most thankful for is my family. My family is always with me. We love each other and care for each other. My family and I support one another through thick and thin. We cry together and we celebrate together, even if we don't show it. To me a family is like a work of art. The family is the main focus of the picture and the rest is the background. The family is painted in many different colors with many emotions embedded in the canvas. Without the family, the canvas seems empty because the family is what brings everything together, no matter what stains or blemishes may appear on that canvas. It is the same with a real family. If their is not a healthy relationship between a family then everything seems to fall apart like a puzzle that is missing some pieces. But if their is a healthy relationship then everything comes together and stays together no matter what obstacles the family may come across. They will overcome the obstacles together. That is why my family is so important to me. So when we say Grace at Thanksgiving dinner, we will be reminded to thank God for each other.

NAME Lourdes Rohan  
SCHOOL (O.L.V.) Our Lady of Victory Catholic School  
ADDRESS 2 Bellemore St.  
CITY Floral Park  
STATE, ZIP New York, 11001  
PARENT'S SIGNATURE R. Rohan

Derek Chiang

### What I Am Most Thankful For

Thanksgiving is right around the corner and I am thankful for many things. The one thing I am most thankful for is my family. My family is very special. My mom is very caring, my dad is a very hard worker and loving, and my brother is very athletic and has taught me many lessons.

My mom is like a living calendar, she always remembers when my brother and I have sports practices or tests. She always tells me to play hard when we have practices and study hard when we have tests. She takes care of our whole family.

My dad is a very hard worker. He always goes far away on business trips to make money for our family. He is also my best baseball coach. He taught me how to play and show good sportsmanship. I am so thankful for my dad.

My brother is very athletic and smart. He always helps me when I need it. He always keeps me company. He is like my best friend. He also corrects me in my studies. I love my brother very much.

Thanksgiving is a holiday when people celebrate with thankfulness and everything good in their lives. People should always be thankful for what they have and whom they have. I love my family and I am very thankful for them. Thanksgiving is the perfect time for me to show them how much they mean to me.

# Senator Jack M. Martins



## 2011 Sixth Grade Thanksgiving Essay Contest Entry Form

### WHAT ARE YOU MOST THANKFUL FOR...?

What I am very thankful for is to have a loving and caring family, that will always love and watch over me. I feel like the luckiest girl in the world to have this.

I am very thankful that my mother did her best to raise me as a single parent. I am also thankful because my older sister will always be there for me. My sister is like a listening diary, she gives me her undivided attention when I am speaking. I am thankful that my mom raised me to be disciplined, and a hard worker. I am thankful for my cousins. I have them to keep my secrets and I keep theirs. I am very grateful and thankful to have all of this love in my life.

The love and support of my family keeps me whole. I could only wish that other people are thankful for their family as well. Mostly their parents and siblings. What I am most thankful for is to be an American. I love my country.

NAME U'Niah Cromwell

SCHOOL Clara H. Carlson, Elmont NY 11003

ADDRESS 433 Columbia Ave

CITY Rockville Centre

STATE, ZIP NY, 11570

PARENT'S SIGNATURE A. J. Gormwell

I am most thankful for the time that I spent with my Grandpa. I called him Pa. I called him that because he wanted me and my older sister to call him Papa. My sister was young and could only say half of the word and it was Pa. My Pa died January 7th 2008. The last time I saw him was on my 8th birthday. I went to the hospital. At first I was scared to go in. I was wearing a birthday crown and the nurse noticed it. She asked me if it was really my birthday. When I told her yes she gave me little sticky things with metal on the top. They are used on people that are sick. She told me to put them on the bottom of my shoes and pretend to tap dance. She told that her daughters do that a lot. That made me feel better and I went in the hospital room. When I saw my Pa I knew that he was happy I was there. He was at his best that day. That's what my mom tells me. She says it's because my sister and I were there. His mouth was mostly open and from breathing his lips would get very dry. My sister put water on her finger and rubbed his lips to make them less dry. Then before I knew it, it was time to go. I then knew that would be the last time I would see my Pa. I was sad. I mean sure it would be fabulous for him to still be here, but it would be selfish to keep him here. If he was in pain here, I would rather him be in no pain in a better place. When all this was going on I didn't want to be alone in my room so I was sleeping in my sister's room. One night my mom told my sister and I that if anything was happening to my pa in the middle of the night or early in the morning, that she would go to the hospital. My dad still had to go to

still had to go to work so my sister and I would go to the deli that he owns. Every time the phone rang I jump I hoped it wasn't my mom, That one time that the phone rang it was my mom he was gone. I lost my Pa. I know that he is watching over me right now. It breaks my heart that he's gone. Buy I don't love him any less. That is what I am thankful for.





# **“ THANKSGIVING ”**

**BY: AJAY SHARMA**



**Ajay Sharma**  
**Mrs.LaBruna**  
**Thanksgiving Essay**

Thanksgiving is a very special time of year. It is when we all give thanks for the wonderful things and people we have in our lives. Thanksgiving is a time when you and your loved ones share a delicious meal and appreciate all that you have. I'm most thankful for my loving parents that god has given me. There are several reasons as to why my parents are so special and why I share such a special bond with them.

My parents have taught me everything I know today. Their have been times in my life when I thought certain things were impossible to achieve, but my parents taught me that nothing in this world is impossible and that I have to find solutions and methods in order to achieve. When I was a child, I was taught by my parents how to ride a bike. I was terrified at first and was giving up. I had seen my neighbor who was also about my age at the time, fall off his bike while riding it and he was injured. I was shaken up after seeing that happen with him, and I thought I would end up the same way. My parents helped me overcome that fear and they provided me with support. Today, I love riding my bike.

My parents have always taught me to be kind to others and to always respect others. They have taught me many different lessons throughout my years, which will all contribute to my bright future. My parents have made me a strong and intelligent individual who loves life. I have learned that no matter what happens in life, giving up is just not an option. Their will be times in life when I fall, and I must just simply get right back and continue on with my life's journey to success. Thank you to my parents for making me a successful individual who will always be ready to face anything life brings.

Manor Oaks School  
New Hyde Park



# Senator Jack M. Martins



## 2011 Sixth Grade Thanksgiving Essay Contest Entry Form

### WHAT ARE YOU MOST THANKFUL FOR...?

I am most thankful for my family. Without them I don't know what I would do. I am thankful for my family because they provide for me. My family provides food, shelter, clothing, and love. Being provided with all these things means the world to me. Without anything I have now I wouldn't be here today. Being able to have a family that cares for you is the best feeling ever. Some people don't have families to care for them but I do, I am very lucky and grateful to have one. This is what I am most thankful for.

NAME Aurbrey Jerome  
SCHOOL Gotham Avenue School  
ADDRESS 170 Hathaway Avenue  
CITY Elmont  
STATE, ZIP New York 11003  
PARENT'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

Sabrina Myers  
October 28, 2011

Vincent Smith School  
Mrs. Shapiro

### Things to Be Thankful For

I am grateful for many things that some people do not have. I am mostly thankful for my family. I am appreciative for the best and caring friends. I am pleased with my education. I am overwhelmed with happiness because of my good health. I am content with the shelter and food that my grandma can provide for me. I am lucky to be living another day.

I am grateful for being an American and for my freedom. I am glad to have a loving family when others take their families for granted. They don't know what they have until it is gone. Without my friends I would not have anyone to talk to and care about my feelings. I would have to sing the blues for the rest of my life.

Education is so valuable to me. Most people don't even have a school and wish that they had the education that I do. I am thankful for not having a deadly illness and for having a meal everyday. Some people go without food. These are the reasons we celebrate Thanksgiving. I hope everyone can celebrate this holiday with joy like I do.

## What I'm Most Thankful For

By Bradford Lin

Great Neck North Middle School

Every year, I look forward to Thanksgiving. A lot of things have changed for my family this year and I have a lot to be thankful for. But I am most thankful for the great technology that we have today. It is a bit sad, but my mother's cousin, Donna, was recently diagnosed with cancer. I now realize more than ever how important it is to stay healthy. I overheard all of this over the phone. It started out with Donna's husband who had cancer. Donna was very sad. Donna ran around all over the place trying to get her husband everything he needed. She barely got a wink of sleep at night.

I feel so fortunate that Donna was diagnosed early and was able to get an operation to stop the cancer from growing and getting worse. I am so grateful that the doctors who are treating Donna have the special equipment to help her. If they hadn't had the technology to make the operation happen, I couldn't bear to imagine what would have happened to Donna.

I hope that our technology will be able to keep up with these new diseases and stop them before they take away people's lives and hurt more families. This coming Thanksgiving, I will be thankful for our doctors, scientists, and educators for helping save so many lives. I will continue to be thankful for everything that I have, but I am most thankful for our great ability to create safe-living technology.

# Senator Jack M. Martins



## 2011 Sixth Grade Thanksgiving Essay Contest Entry Form

### WHAT ARE YOU MOST THANKFUL FOR...?

I love my brother! This is why I am thankful for him. That's not the only reason though. Some others are: we always have fun together, he keeps me company when I'm lonely, and I can turn to him when nobody else is there.

My brother and I always have a great time together. For example, when both my brother and I had the stomach virus and stayed home from school, we had a lot of fun. The only part that wasn't fun was being sick. Besides that, my brother and I built a fort out of pillows and hid in it. We watched two movies, just relaxed, and we talked a ton.

My brother keeps me company when I am lonely. For instance, on the weekend, when we were out late the night before, we both woke up super early. Both my parents just wanted to sleep. My brother keeps me company because he comes into my room and we go on the computer. We also draw, play games, and read.

I know I can turn to my brother when nobody else is there. For example, one day I was in a fight with a close friend. I knew I could talk to my brother about it. When I came home that day we talked and talked on my couch. He helped me feel better and the next day I had enough courage to say sorry and ask for forgiveness. Next time, I'll help him.

In summary, I am very thankful for my little brother. He will help me out whenever I need it. I wish I could be just like him and have that little charm that he has on people. Whenever he is hurt, I know I will help him even if he doesn't ask.

NAME Clara Goldberger

SCHOOL South Middle School

ADDRESS 349 Lakeville Road

CITY Great Neck

STATE, ZIP NY, 11020

PARENT'S SIGNATURE Maggi Goldberger



# Senator Jack M. Martins



## 2011 Sixth Grade Thanksgiving Essay Contest Entry Form

### WHAT ARE YOU MOST THANKFUL FOR...?

This is a few of the things I'm most thankful for.

I'm thankful for having a nice home to live in. I'm thankful for having a home because it's a place that can protect me from harsh weather and a place where I can sleep. If I didn't have a home I would be freezing outside in the snow right now. Also if I didn't have a home I wouldn't have that much food either because I wouldn't have a refrigerator to keep my food from going bad. When I saw kids with no homes in a magazine my class was reading I started being more thoughtful about how lucky I am to have a home to live in.

Another thing I'm thankful for is that my parents have jobs. The reason I'm thankful that my parents have job is because if they didn't have a job we wouldn't have any money and without any money we wouldn't have food, water, clothes, or a home. Also I wouldn't have the TV I'm watching right now or the blanket I'm wrapped up in. Without money we would have nothing and the only way to get money is to earn it with hard work.

Last but nowhere near the least, I'm thankful for my family. I'm thankful for my family because they give me a house, food, a place to sleep, and other things. Also if I didn't have a family I probably wouldn't be here or I would be in an orphanage somewhere waiting to be picked by someone to adopt me.

NAME Jason Lima  
SCHOOL Mineola middle school  
ADDRESS 133 evelyn rd. Mineola NY  
CITY New York  
STATE, ZIP 11501  
PARENT'S SIGNATURE [Signature]

# Senator Jack M. Martins



## 2011 Sixth Grade Thanksgiving Essay Contest Entry Form

### WHAT ARE YOU MOST THANKFUL FOR...?

There is so much that I am thankful for in this world. I'm thankful for the birds, the bees, and the tall green trees. For the moon, the stars, and the powerful cars. For my brother, my sister, and peers alike. For my mother, my father, and hamster that I like. For the food I eat and the house that I live in. For the teachers, the grades, and the knowledge I'm given. For the good times, the bad times, the tragic times too. For the clouds, the air, and the sky so big and blue. For elephants, for donkeys, for giraffes, for crickets. For pillows, for my bed, and my two special blankets. For pink, for purple, for orange, and for green. For basketball, my cello, and for my soccer team. And maybe the time I got an A+ on my test, made my day at its very best. And on our special family vacation, we traveled across the U.S. nation. And now my list is very full. Very full of feelings. Of thanks, of happiness, of love, of giving. And on this special day, the day we call Thanksgiving, I praise the things I get in life and how incredibly lucky I am. And then, I wonder. What would life be like without these things. And I sit, smile, and think to myself; WOW.

By Sarah Finkelstein

NAME Sarah Finkelstein  
SCHOOL Weber Middle School Attn: Julie Lay  
ADDRESS Port Washington Blvd.  
CITY Port Washington  
STATE, ZIP New York, 11050  
PARENT'S SIGNATURE [Signature]

# Senator Jack M. Martins



## 2011 Sixth Grade Thanksgiving Essay Contest Entry Form

### WHAT ARE YOU MOST THANKFUL FOR...?

Some things that I am most thankful for is going to a nice, clean Catholic school that I like. Another thing that I am thankful for is having food for every meal. I will never starve because my Mom is always there when I need something. She will always listen to me. She always likes to help. Something else is my family. They are always there for me when I need help with my homework. I greatly appreciate what they all each and every one of them to do that for me. If I fall off my bike, fall on ice in the winter. They will all come running toward me to see if I'm "ok". Then if I got hurt on my knees or hands they will go inside with me and wash my cut and give me bandaids. I am thankful for having clothes always on my back at school, at home. The most important thing is being brought on this Earth by God. Without him

NAME Danielle Marra O'Shea  
SCHOOL St. Brigid Our Lady of Hope Regional School  
ADDRESS 135 Post Avenue Apt. 6R  
CITY Westbury  
STATE, ZIP NY 11590  
PARENT'S SIGNATURE Ms. Debbie O'Shea



# Senator Jack M. Martins



## 2011 Sixth Grade Thanksgiving Essay Contest Entry Form

### WHAT ARE YOU MOST THANKFUL FOR...?

this world that millions of people are living  
Oh wouldn't be on this earth. If he didn't do nothing  
we wouldn't be here. The last thing is having great teachers  
principal Mr. Chagnay is the best principal. Some of  
my favorite teachers are Mrs. Shannon who is my Homeroom  
ELA (English Language Arts). She also teaches me Social  
Studies. My math teacher is Mrs. Gambino who  
is also nice like all my other teachers. She teaches  
me all my Math. She is very nice. Mrs. Lennon  
is my Science teacher who plans interesting  
field trips to places. Mrs. Enderle is my Music/  
Religion teacher and we do Bible Reading and  
learn more about God. In computer/Technology  
we learn how they designed computers/made them.  
We also do fun and interesting research on this.  
Library is when we do a Book Talk on that's  
when you give your opinion of a book/short essay.  
In art we learn how to draw faces and get better  
at it. In Gym we have to play baseball. Here is  
what I am most thankful for.

NAME Danielle O'Shea

SCHOOL St. John

ADDRESS 135 Post Avenue Apt 6R.

CITY Westbury

STATE, ZIP Ny 11590

PARENT'S SIGNATURE

Mr. & Mrs. O'Shea



# Senator Jack M. Martins



## 2011 Sixth Grade Thanksgiving Essay Contest Entry Form

### WHAT ARE YOU MOST THANKFUL FOR...?

114 words

I am most thankful for being born into the wonderful life I have now. My parents worked hard to give me a good future even before my mother brought me into this world. They provided a great environment from my baby years all the way through my pre-teen years. From the minute I was born, my parents ensured that I didn't just have comfortable surroundings to grow up in, but also all the love and support a child could ask for.

Unfortunately, there are many children who aren't as fortunate as I am. In some cases, those kids don't even have basic necessities and are shoved into situations that are life threatening. Some children in Africa are a good example. They didn't choose to live in poor circumstances or to be orphaned; life itself just pushed them into it. They didn't do anything wrong to deserve that life, just as I didn't do anything right to deserve the fine life I have now. Life can be very unfair that way.

I guess what I'm trying to say is that I'm most thankful for being brought into the wonderful life I have now. I have the most important thing anyone could ask for: a family that loves me. There's nothing else I'd rather have.

NAME Sara Choi

SCHOOL Herricks UFSD Middle School

ADDRESS 11 Sutton Hill Lane

CITY Manhasset Hills

STATE, ZIP NY, 11040

PARENT'S SIGNATURE Alex Voh

## WHAT ARE YOU MOST THANKFUL FOR...?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

STATE, ZIP 11501  
PARENT'S SIGNATURE Catherine Perera

I am thankful for a lot of things but the thing I am most thankful for is cancer foundations. I am thankful for cancer foundations because I had two uncles that died from colon and prostate cancer.

It all started one day when we received a phone call right after school. It was my aunt Berta saying that my uncle Manuel was in the hospital. She was crying and told us that my uncle was in the hospital because that he had prostate cancer. We were shocked because we were never expecting this. The worst part was that they were in Portugal and it was a week before thanksgiving. We wanted to rush to the airport but it would be so busy and we didn't have the money. We were so worried. Every single day we called him he was sounding weaker and weaker. We thought he was going to die in about a month but it was much sooner than that. He died on thanksgiving. It felt like a million knives was stabbing me. My heart sunk all the way to my feet. I never felt so bad in my life. Everyone looked so down and we barely had any fun. It was the saddest thanksgiving I ever had.

After the saddest thanksgiving I ever had we got another call from my cousin Sophia. She said that my uncle (king, that's his nickname) was now suffering from colon cancer. It was a 8 days before Christmas. We thought for sure that he was going to pass away on Christmas but he actually passed away two days after Christmas. We were glad that he didn't pass away really soon but we were still really upset. We didn't know that we could feel this low.

It was devastating. My whole family thought that we couldn't move on. We all thought to ourselves why, why can this happen and then we realized that in Portugal they don't have a lot of money to get all the equipment they need to find cures for cancer, diseases, and sicknesses. We all thought to ourselves if we can raise enough money for them to buy all the equipment they need we can save millions of lives so we all created a band to find cures for cancer, and diseases. We all did exactly that and when we raised a high amount of 50 thousand dollars, we were very proud because with

all that money almost everyone that comes to those hospitals will survive and that's why I am thankful for cancer foundations.

I had a pretty bad experience was pretty bad but I helped saved a lot of lives and I am proud of that.

THE  
END!



### Giving Thanks

What am I thankful for? Many things!! To start, I am thankful for my mom because she is always there for me. She guides me when I am stuck on different tasks like homework and projects. She also involves me in community services. She drives me to all my activities such as sports, boy scouts, altar serving, and school events. That is a big job! Most importantly, she cooks for me so that I am healthy. If I didn't have a mother like that, I wouldn't be who I am today. Do you have a mom who does that for you?

I am thankful for my dad because he helps me achieve. He helps me in different sports, but mostly baseball because that is the one sport I play all year. He works with me to improve my skills. For example, in pitching, he tells me to bend down so the ball goes low. When hitting, he shows me where to put my foot and to keep my head down so I can hit hard. When fielding, he hits the ball to me until I keep my glove down. He does this all in his very little spare time. I wouldn't be who I am today if it weren't for him. How lucky am I?

There is so much to be thankful for in everyday life, but my parents are most important because they are my role model to being a better person.

# Senator Jack M. Martins



## 2011 Sixth Grade Thanksgiving Essay Contest Entry Form

### WHAT ARE YOU MOST THANKFUL FOR...?

#### Why I Give Thanks

Thanksgiving is a holiday of giving thanks for what you have. I am very thankful for what I have during Thanksgiving and all year long. Here are a few things I am thankful for.

One thing I am thankful for is the water and food I have. I always think of how in some parts of the world people have very minimal amounts of food and water. Some people might have to walk miles just to get water that isn't even clean. Another thing I am thankful for is my home. Whenever I go to sleep at night, I realize how some people don't have anything to keep them warm. I have all I need to be warm and comfortable, but some people don't even have a blanket or a roof over their heads at night. I am also very thankful that I live in a country that is safe. In Egypt for example, some children are very scared because there is a rebellion right outside their homes and there is nobody to protect them from the violence. Here in America there is nothing that can put us in grave danger.

I am very thankful for the things I have. Everybody should be thankful every day, not just during Thanksgiving. Being thankful and grateful for what you have is very important and you should not take it for granted. This is why I give thanks during Thanksgiving and throughout the year.

NAME Tommy Drenis

SCHOOL Roslyn Middle School

ADDRESS 19 Cherry Wood Lane

CITY Port Washington

STATE, ZIP New York, 11050

PARENT'S SIGNATURE Bennie Drenis

Amanda Britney Chau  
W. T. Clarke Middle School  
Mrs. Sweeney, ELA - Period 1

2011 Senator Jack M. Martins' Sixth Grade Thanksgiving Essay Contest:

**“What Are You Most Thankful For...?”**

I am most thankful for my family. My family is very important to me. They are the people who I love and the people who love me. My parents are the people I look up to and the people who I ask for advice. They always support and encourage me in everything that I do. My little brother might get on my nerves sometimes, but we have a lot of fun together. It would be lonely growing up without him.

I, especially, enjoy celebrating the holidays with my family. Everyone gets together and we have a lot of fun. I like playing with my cousins and eating all the yummy food cooked by my parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles. There is always a lot of noise and commotion. Everyone is sharing news and gossip. The holidays wouldn't be the same if my family wasn't here to share it with me.

Unfortunately, not everyone has a family. For example, one of my grandfathers never got to meet his father. He disappeared before he was born. He grew up in China with only his mother and no siblings. It was a very lonely and hard life for him. They were very poor and he had to help his mother with chores and with making money. During the holidays, he did not have a lot of yummy food or lots of family to celebrate with. But, we are his family now.

I feel bad for the people who don't have any family. They don't have the love and support that I have. I cannot imagine what it would be like without my family. It would be very lonely. This is why I am most thankful for my family.

# Senator Jack M. Martins



## 2011 Sixth Grade Thanksgiving Essay Contest

### Entry Form

## WHAT ARE YOU MOST THANKFUL FOR...?

This Thanksgiving I am thankful for my friends, family, church, and money. I am thankful for my friends because they're always there to back me up if somebody blames me for something. This is good because there might be a serious situation and my friends will always be there to protect me. I am also thankful for my family because they provide me with food and love. I am thankful for my family because if they didn't really love me they wouldn't teach me wrong from right. This is good because in all that happens in life they have been through most of it. So, if your family tells you to do something you should listen to them. Also, I am thankful for my family because they give me a house to live in and also they give you all the extra stuff like video games, expensive clothes, and television. I am also thankful for church. I am thankful for church because without God I wouldn't have a lot of things like my family, friends, and I wouldn't be born so that's why I am thankful for church. Lastly, I am thankful for money because without money I wouldn't have a lot of stuff like most valuable resources such as water, shelter, food, and clothing. I am thankful for all of these things in my life.

NAME Ryan Ross

SCHOOL Dutch Broadway School

ADDRESS 1880 Dutch Broadway

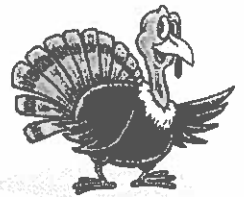
CITY Elmont

STATE, ZIP New York, 11003

PARENTS'S SIGNATURE



# Senator Jack M. Martins



## 2011 Sixth Grade Thanksgiving Essay Contest Entry Form

### WHAT ARE YOU MOST THANKFUL FOR...?

I am thankful for a lot of things. But I am most thankful for my family. I don't know what I would do without them. They are funny, loving, and caring. They are also very supportive. I love them and very thankful that they are in my life.

For example, my mom, she takes me to my sports games, makes dinner, drives and picks up my sister, brother and I, does laundry and much more. My dad is very supportive like my mom. He does almost everything that he does except for cooking and laundry.

My sister is nice and kind, she helps me with a lot of things. Also my brother, we fight a lot but he is always there for me no matter what. Also my dog Maya. she is part of my family too. I love her very much because she is very loyal.

See, so if I didn't have my family I wouldn't have anything really. They mean the world to me and I would do anything for them. I love my family. They are the best, most supporting, caring family I could ever ask for, and I would want nothing more.

NAME Diana

SCHOOL Floral Park Bellerose School

ADDRESS 2 Larch Ave.

CITY Floral Park

STATE, ZIP NY 11001

PARENT'S SIGNATURE Monica Santoro

## Thankful For

Hello, my name is Christian. I was born on another continent, in another country. I was an orphan who thought my life was going to be a disaster, until a special person came into my life. I would like to share this with you.

I am thankful for being adopted. Having a mom who didn't notice my disability, she picked me out because she wanted a little boy. I am thankful to get such a wonderful mom. I love my life now.

I am also thankful for having musical abilities. I loved music since 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. I loved coming home and singing, pretending a deodorant can was my microphone. Then there came school plays. I didn't sing but I played the piano and other instruments with a couple of friends. Then I took guitar lessons and loved learning new things. This is why I am thankful for what I can do with music these days.

One other thing I am thankful for is my football coach, who believed kids in wheelchairs can do anything. She always says you can do anything you set your mind on, even if you are in a wheelchair. It's fun getting to meet new kids, and learning new football skills. I have a good time playing and I am thankful for her.

I never knew all that I can do even though I am in a wheelchair. I have learned never say never. That's what I am thankful for.

Christian Calamuci

Henry Viscardi School