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Thanksgiving is a holiday full of things to celebrate. You have the opportunity to eat delicious food, bond with family you may not see often, and have deals for shopping the day after. But the most important thing about this festive time is remembering everything you are grateful for. Being aware that not everyone has the privilege of doing everything you are able to do throughout the year is an important thing to acknowledge. This is why I am grateful for my cousins and all of their support towards me.

I have known my cousins Lulu and Elke since I was two years old and visited them in Upstate New York for Thanksgiving. My cousin Elke is the same age as me and her family is the one that has hosted Thanksgiving for everyone in our family. My cousin Lulu is three years older than us and lives in California, so we don't get to see her as often. Their first house in Upstate New York was the first place I had ever had a sleepover, and I still have very vague memories of the two years I had slept over there.

When I was about five years old, Elke's family moved to Massachusetts, where they continued to host Thanksgiving. Me and my cousins had become so close by then that we all considered each other best friends. That year was also one of the only years my father was able to visit with us, as he had heart disease and his condition had deteriorated within the next year. When he had eventually passed away that March, Elke was able to visit us and support us during that time and Lulu's family had supported as much as they could from California, as they weren't able to visit.

About one year after my father's passing, the Covid virus started. My cousins and I all had gotten phones at this point and called each other everyday. We would play games together online and check up on each other to make sure we were alright. When the lockdown finally ended a year later, they planned a surprise birthday party for me with my mom and some of my other friends and flew to New York for it. The surprise party they threw me is still one of my most treasured memories today.

The last reason I am so grateful for my cousins is because last year, I casually mentioned to Elke about how I was hoping to see a concert at Madison Square Garden with one of my friends for my birthday. She had remembered and when my birthday came, she had given me part of her allowance so I could buy merchandise from the concert. I wasn't able to see the concert because I ended up being hospitalized, however I was still able to buy merchandise with the money she had given me. I am especially happy to be able to visit my cousins again this year and I hope I am able to continue for years to come.

To conclude, my cousins are not only my biggest supporters, but also some of the kindest people I have ever met. I am indebted for everything they have done for me and thankful for the fact that I am related to them.

