

I have faced many challenges while trying to help my peers and community. Most have been the fact that I am always trying to help people and be a leader in some way. I have always been involved in helping the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender) community. I am aware that in the LGBT community there are many people that have been discriminated against because they are different and they do not fit the society that they are in. Helping people that have different lifestyles and that are hated because they believe in something else has always been the greatest thing that I have done. Hopefully I have impacted my peers' life in some way and have helped them overcome a fear of being out into the world. I have also been involved in trying to create a safe zone where people can go and where they can be comfortable with being themselves and being who they want to be. With doing all this there are many ups and downs and people that do not approve of me helping homosexuals.

I am very supportive of the LGBTQ community, because I am as well part of it and trying to help people realize that being gay is just like being a person of a different race or religion, is very difficult. Trying to change the way people think is a hard job and changing people in becoming open minded and get into new ideas is stressful, I have learned that through out life you can not change ignorant people, no n the less closed minded people. I have always had in my mind that we as people need to put someone before us and help others before we help ourselves. As the President of the GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) at our school I have tried to bring a lot of things to our school and show my peers the meaning behind tolerance and how discrimination does not get us anywhere in life. In life you are going to learn that being open minded is needed to go through life. I have always been looking out for others and trying to bring out the laws that people are not aware that are out there. Being in the GSA has also brought me challenges because in being in the GSA people automatically think you are gay and they start to talk and try to bring you down, but I certainly do not let them bring me down as the leader I am trying to be.

In the future I hope to help larger communities and try to bring out what it is that is needed in communities not only to make them safer but with that make them better and a place where people want to be and where they are not afraid to be themselves in. My local community can be improved by letting people be aware and bring out more information and help them let go of the old beliefs and the old ways that people have had in mind for centuries now. People need to know that in this word there have been big changes and in the present day things have changes

dramatically. The community needs to know that in order to improve communities we all need to work together and work with people that are different and that even though we do not agree with some people's ways we need to learn how to except everyone.

My sexual orientation has impacted my life in many ways. In high school there are not many people that know about me but the ones that do, respect me and the way that I am, but at home it's a whole different story. I am afraid to come out to my family because I believe that they will try to blame it on the people that I hang out with or they might be embarrassed of me. It's not the coming out part but the result and just thinking about what would happen if my family really knew scares me. I love my family but I know they won't be supportive and accept me as I am and I know that they will not be there when I need them the most if they knew about my sexual orientation. I am afraid of having my family look at me in a different way, in a way that tells me that I am not part of the family. I do not want the same thing to happen what happened with the relationship with my parents in where they no longer want to help me pursue my goals and dreams of continuing my education and going off to college. Financially my parents want me to be independent because they do not accept me being gay.