10TH - 12TH GRADE

Second Place Essay

Name: Emily Henry
Area: Linn/Benton Counties

Life...Because Everyone Deserves a Chance

A flashback from childhood comes rushing back to Grace.

"Mommy! Come quick, I found an egg!"

Her mother rushed in. "Oh, honey, that's sad."

"But Mom! I want to keep it."

"No Gracie, her mother can't take care of it. It will die."

"But wouldn't it become a baby bird? *I* could take care of it!"

"I don't know. It would be a big commitment, and it might not turn out very well in the end."

"Mom, I want to give *her* a chance."

"Oh, so you've already decided it's going to be a girl, have you?"

Grace smiled at her shyly... "Please?"

Her mother smiled at her daughter's tender heart. "I think Grandma has an incubator in the shed"

"Thank you, Mom! Thank you!"

Grace smiled at the memory as her hand pressed against her abdomen. As an adult, she now was feeling the same feelings of doubt her mother had, ten times intensified. However, she also remembered the joy, the feeling like no other, as she watched her baby bird fly for the first time. With childlike faith those many years ago, she had chosen life for that baby bird. Drawing in a shaky breath, she now grew confident enough to say out loud, as she peered in the mirror, "I HAVE to give *her* a chance."

From behind her, she felt her mother's arms slide around her shoulder.

"Oh, so you've already decided it's going to be a girl, have you?"

Grace's eyes glistened. She did not fathom that anyone would accept her and her baby. And now here she stood, feeling God's love and acceptance extended through her Mom. Love for her child overflowed down Grace's cheeks.

Oftentimes, we seem to forget that our perspective does not define truth. We cannot affect the potential of a human's life. Adults commonly choose to give life a chance, only if that choice does not stand in the way of their own desires. However, a child will see the situation in a different light. They have hope and an understanding of the gift of life. This is an illustration of the faith we are called to live out.

God gives each person a chance, offering a life full of His potential. Thinking of the many people who have been influential, what if they had not been born? Our world would be drastically changed. They were created and had a life purpose. We are called to give each being the chance to live the life they were intended to live.

A woman is designed to give life. The life inside her is a part of her own self. Once taken away, it is a piece of her that will forever be lost. Instead, the fulfillment of this design gives an incomparable joy.

We do not know the future. There is an abundant potential for every human life. This life is given with a plan and a chance to change the world. Each of us play an important role in this, as we choose to nurture the life we were designed to give. Understanding this, we see the immeasurable value of this life and why *everyone* deserves a chance.