

## **Someone Who Influenced My Life: Nellie Hunter**

People in our lives have the power to affect us positively and negatively. Someone who changed my life positively is Nellie Hunter. Even though she is not my biological aunt, she has always loved and cared for me like a loving aunt would so I gave her the title Auntie Nellie. She has been my mother's friend for many years and has known me for most of my life. Auntie Nellie is one of those people who is always doing something for someone else. She has taught me that it's the little things you do that make a big difference in your own life and in the lives of others.

Every summer Auntie Nellie would encourage me to join the summer reading program at the Public Library and I have grown to love reading and writing. I even had a story published in the Anthology of Stories for Young Writers. I also helped out in an after-school program where I encouraged young children to read. I was motivated to excel in my school work because of my passion for reading which Auntie Nellie helped me develop.

Last year I joined Auntie Nellie in the Campaign for Breast Cancer Society after seeing how my biological aunt suffered from breast cancer. Her mastectomy was successful but the chemotherapy treatments were emotionally and physically painful. I felt some of my aunt's pain. When I heard Auntie Nellie was raising funds for breast cancer I wanted to participate. I helped her make cookies to sell. I also asked my principal if my school can participate and we collected a few thousand dollars which was donated to the Breast Cancer Society. It was a great success. I was so proud of myself. I couldn't believe how a little thought and some hard work could make a difference.

Auntie Nellie is a person who always wants to help others who are less fortunate. I admire her courage and strength. She never complains even when she is really tired. She has determination and creativity which she uses to help others. She inspires me to think of all the ways I can help others too. Auntie Nellie was so proud of me when I started my own drive called "Warm Little Hearts, Heads and Toes". This drive is to collect hats, scarves and socks which are donated to children in foster homes.

Auntie Nellie has had a great impact on me which will last forever. She has taught me great principles in life which I will carry with me throughout my life. She has taught me that no matter how busy you are, you can share a little of your time to make a difference in someone's life. Auntie Nellie taught me to be more appreciative of what I have and to accept others for who they are. Most importantly, she has taught me that what really matters in life is giving to others from your heart.

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