

# Key Messages

By Shakisha Downey

**S**uccess for me is about achieving my goals and being pleased with my career. I hope to live a clean and healthy lifestyle with accomplishments I can be proud of and know I'm living my life right.

Money is not everything to me, but I do hope my life will be filled with those things I need to live comfortably. Because I'm not being able to see any of my family regularly or at all, I hope to be able to see them whenever I want to and can because they make me happy.

Being popular is not a main priority for me, but I do hope that throughout my life I have people to lean on and talk to and have fun with. I'm going to try to be the best I can to the people in my life and treat them with respect and kindness.

I also hope that I am able to keep my self esteem up and have respect and kindness for myself.

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By Haley Glasp

**S**uccess — I hope to be very successful some day. I know I can achieve my goals if I want them enough!

**Money** — Believe it or not we need money to survive for food, and money is always something everyone wants in their future!

**Love** — I chose love because I want love to be in my life. I want a husband.

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By Patricia Schofield

**E**veryone has rights — to do what they want, knowing that there are consequences for your actions.

To tell people what it's like living in care. We all look the same. Nobody can really tell if you are in care or not, unless you open your mouth and tell people.

To write about living in care, so others can hear and see what it's like. Some people who are not in care think it is always about negative things. In fact, there are some positive things and good memories about being in care.

# The Most Important Thing

By Nathan Perry



**A**s my life goes on, I ask myself "what is the most important thing to me?" As I sit here in my room, I'm thinking random thoughts that are flying at me.

Then I hear my mom calling me "Nathan... Nathan... Nathan". Then boom my mom is the most important person in my life.

But I started to think again, my dad is important, my brother, my sister... even my aunts and uncles. Even my grandparent is important to me. Therefore my families are most important to me—even my foster parent. So my families are important because they will do anything for me and they love me too. And I will also do anything for them. I want to say to them that I love you too.

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By Shakisha Downey

**T**he most important thing in my life is my family. This includes my sisters, mother, grandmother, aunts, uncles, and cousins. This is the most important thing to me because I love my family and don't know what I would do without them.

The only reason that I am keeping my head up and dealing with this stupid foster care crap is the vision that I will soon be with my family.

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By Ashley Baxter

**T**he most important thing in my life is a person and his name is Jeff. There are other important things in my life but Jeff is the most important. Without his help I would've dropped out of school or stayed home with my mom.

Jeff has done so much to keep me going, has helped me respect myself and taught me that I can be forgiven no matter what.

He has and still does love me for who I am. I used to think nobody could because of my past but he does and I believe he always will.

I have never met anyone like him and I love him so much.

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By Manda Jackson

**T**he most important thing in my life is my child and my family. My family has been there through the thick and the thin. They are always there to help me out — well not all my family, but mostly my grandmother and nanny. I couldn't thank them enough for everything they've done.

Becoming a single mother to a beautiful daughter is going to be hard but I don't know what I would have done if I didn't have my nanny and grandmother by my side.

I couldn't ask for a better grandmother or nanny. Thank you guys so much—you mean the world to me!!