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Madeline Enderson
Grade 6
Cheryl Meyer
Mickelson Middle School
Bret and Jessica Enderson
2018 Constitution Blvd.
Brookings, SD 57006
701-899-1289
musicaljess1@hotmail.com

Lifting the Veil of Darkness

“Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it.” These words were spoken by Martin Luther King Jr. during one of his many speeches on civil rights, in a time where America was covered in a veil of darkness. This veil was discrimination. However, Martin Luther King Jr. was a visionary and could see what America could look like with the absence of racism and hate. Martin Luther King Jr. was a change agent that let his light shine to help lift that veil. By choosing to take away the veil of darkness and hatred you are choosing to help shine light and love in this world. By lifting the veil, you are choosing to be the light in the darkness, and the hope in despair. We are living in a time where it’s all too easy to become busy and forget about caring for others, especially in our own community.

I have had personal experiences where I helped bring hope, kindness and love to a friend or family member. Whether it was helping a friend that had to move away feel less alone through letters, ensuring she would find friends, or helping my sister with her homework, I have opportunities throughout the day to shine my light on others. The challenge is often taking the time or recognizing the needs of others. I will admit, there have been times where I felt I was too busy or didn’t take the time to listen and after

reflecting on it later, I didn't feel great about it. However, I can learn from those experiences and make it a priority to be there for others and stand up for what is kind and right. I remember every morning during announcements, my former principal would say "Do the right thing because it is the right thing to do." I love this simple quote because it reminds me that even though an act of kindness may seem small, we have no idea of the ripple effect our light may have on others.

Abraham Lincoln may have said it best; "I am not bound to win but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed but I am bound to live up to what light I have." So, the choice is ours to make. We can choose to be the winner and lose our character. We can choose to succeed at the cost of others. Or we can choose to lift the veil of darkness and hate and let our light shine. Shine to spread warmth, love, and kindness on a world that needs it now, possibly more than ever. In the darkness, the light only shines brighter for us to see opportunities to spread love, kindness, and community. So, let's lift our veil and let our light shine. Shine to bring hope and love to those that need it most. Together, we can continue the work of Martin Luther King Jr. and bring a sense of community to the chaos.