

## HONORABLE MENTION

Macey Bridge, Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School

### Women Change Lives

Women all over the world are underestimated and viewed as inferior to men all the time. Since the beginning of time the men have been the “breadwinners” or harder workers. Us women have been pushed aside; Our opinions have been ignored or forgotten. But without women, men wouldn’t be alive, you wouldn’t have windshield wipers, rubber gloves, paper bags, computers, and so much more. Every single day women are making changes and improving lives. Women are teaching, giving shots, fighting in war, parenting, cooking, fixing cars, building things, and anything else you could think of.

It is incredibly hard for me to think of one woman who has changed my life because there is so many, but I am going to tell you about one that has inspired me and many around me. My mom met Rachel Maguy in 8th grade and they have been best friends ever since then. Although we are not blood related she has been “auntie” Rachel to me since I could speak.

Rachel is a nurse, a mom of three, an aunt, a wife, a sister, a best friend, and much more. She is amazing at crafts like knitting and painting she enjoys cooking and baking and spending time with family. But most importantly, she is one of the kindest people around. She has been a huge factor in my life since birth.

When I was about 8 years old my parents got divorced. My mom needed a place to live. Rachel gave my brother and I a room to share and my mom got her own room upstairs even though she already had a hectic house with her two younger boys, husband, dog, and pig. I don’t remember how long we lived there but I do remember how much it felt like home. She used to do my nails and bake cookies with me. She has been so great to me and everybody who’s had her as a nurse, colleague, or friend. But more importantly she has been there for my mom. My mom had Cody, my older brother, at 16 years old. She finished high school at Monty Tech and became a hairdresser. She is a mom of 3, a wife, a stepmom, an aunt, a sister, a best friend and much more. She has worked in retail, customer service, food service, bartending, hairdressing, and currently as a lunch lady at Monty Tech. She is creative, caring, smart, affirmative, successful, beautiful, and an amazing mother. But I know that my aunt has helped her become who she is today, and I could never live without her love and support.

I have wanted to work in the medical field for a long time now. Nurses are a necessity in any office, school, or hospital. They are underpaid and underrated. Without nurses our world could not function the way it does. It takes a special kind of person to be a nurse, you must know how to stay calm, care for everybody who comes through the doors no matter what, you must work crazy shifts without getting paid a lot, and you must pass an incredibly hard exam; My aunt does it best. She inspires me everyday to push myself harder, do the extra credit projects, finish my homework, and become something wonderful. Because of her I know that I can do what makes me happy and change other people's lives the way she changed my mom's. Thanks to her I live an amazing life with a wonderful family. Thanks to her I have two lifelong best friends, her and my mom.

Over time, especially in America, women are becoming more and more valued. We are still inferior to men, but progress is being made. If all women unite and stand up for our rights we can make a change and continue to inspire, help, and care for everybody around. Women change lives.