

Maria Modi

I greatly appreciate all of your support and believing in Legacy because I probably wouldn't be standing here today without it

My life was difficult from the start. Moving at age five, with my parents and six siblings from South Sudan to Fargo was a big change. It was like I was reborn. I had to relearn a whole new language and a different lifestyle.

School was hard from the day I entered. It was so hard I had to repeat first grade. From then on, I felt like I was never going to improve. I thought I was dumb because I was always getting pulled out of class. I thought I would never understand what was going on in school. I felt like that my entire elementary school years.

When I entered sixth grade in Ben Franklin, I still experienced those feelings. I was put in to the class for the students who needed extra help in math, reading and English. I hated it! Also, Ben Franklin was a lot less diverse than Madison. I found myself being the only black student in many of my classes. I didn't enjoy it because I felt left out. I didn't have what most of the other students had. Most of their parents could financially support them in things like dance class, piano lessons or other activities. I didn't have that because my parents were too busy trying to make sure the bills were paid and there was food on the table. I am thankful to have hard working, wonderful parents!

From my older brother, I heard about Legacy Children's Foundation and it has completely changed my life! I have spent three whole summers going to Sylvan to work on my Math and reading skills. I haven't always liked it but I knew that had to be done because literacy is so important in life. If I can't read and write then my life is going to have unending challenges.

I am so blessed to be where I am now in my life. I have become a confident, motivated and talented person. If Legacy never existed I think I would have given up on myself and that is scary!

Thank you Legacy, for caring and pushing us to be the great successful people we are today.

Mya Schumacher

I get nervous when I speak in front of people. Thank you for helping me feel comfortable.

I was born into a family of three older sisters and my parents Shane and Julie. I have always lived in the same cozy house on north 26th street. I like my neighborhood and am proud to be from Madison School.

My challenges are a little different than Maria, Sapana and Puja. You might think that a white girl would have a pretty simple, easy life in Fargo. I can stand here today and tell you that a lot of white teenagers have challenges too.

Losing my dad when I was eight years old cheated me of growing up with two parents. I was so little I don't have a lot of memories with him other than in the hospital. I know most about my dad from the home videos or stories my mom shares with me now. When my dad was very sick, I missed a lot of school because I was with him on the seventh floor of Sanford Hospital. I got really behind in my third grade reading skills. My dad died in the spring of 2010. It has now been five years and I wonder if I will ever stop missing him.

My mom found out about Legacy in the fall of 2011 when it first began. My two older sisters joined and started to work on their basic skills at Sylvan. My mom got me involved when I was entering sixth grade. I also went to Sylvan to improve my reading skills that summer. Legacy has given me a chance to balance my life and focus on my future.

I find that I have natural leadership skills because I am always watching for fearless ways to make the world better. I like to encourage people to believe in their gifts and talents. I lead others by my example, not so much by a lot of words. I quietly observe situations and step forward to help without being asked. Being a leader to me means defending what is right in all situations even when it is not easy.

I really believe in the quote by Douglas McArthur on page 11 of our story. He said, "A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others."

Thank you for listening to my story.

Hello! My name is Puja Chhetri.

I live with my mom, step-dad, my sister, half-sister and two half-brothers. I was born in Nepal. I am a permanent resident of the United States. I want to become a citizen of this **great** country as soon as possible!

I am going to tell you about my life challenges and how I have overcome them. There are three main challenges of my life. They are: learning a new language, school, and fitting in.

My first challenge was learning a new language. I didn't know any English when I came to the US. I started fourth grade in the fall of 2012. I didn't know what my teacher or the people were saying. That was very difficult for me. I had to read books that were made for pre-school kids.

My second challenge was school. It was challenging for me because I couldn't pay attention during class. I had no idea what my teacher was saying. I

The last but most hurtful challenge has been fitting in with the other students. It was hard to fit in because every time I said something they didn't understand. The kids would ask me over and over. I tried very hard, but I wasn't able to explain to them what I meant. People laughed at me and made fun of me, even adults because of my pronunciation

Since 2013, I have overcome my life challenges by joining Legacy Children's Foundation. Legacy has helped me and my family a lot. Legacy requires that students do community service. I like doing community service because I feel connected to the people of Fargo. Serving others makes me feel proud and important.

Legacy has also supported me with providing a speech therapist so others can understand what I say. I have also traveled to many different places with Legacy. I have discovered the beauty of seeing so many different people and communities. Now I am curious about the world. I wonder where I will live someday... NOT Fargo because it is too cold here.

Legacy has helped me to be my very best!. One more thing, Mrs. Dehne and Jeff always show me to believe in myself and have a positive attitude.

You are Legacy and your support is changing my life. Thank you!

Sapana Lujan

Thank you for coming. I'm glad to share a little of my story with you

I was born here in Fargo in 2003. I have a little sister who is also in Legacy. My parents are from South Sudan. They came to Fargo in 2000. We live in the Madison School neighborhood. I am in seventh grade at Ben Franklin. I want to share a couple reasons why I think school has been hard for me

Before choosing to join Legacy, I was a goof ball around school. My teachers at Madison refused to sign the recommendation form on my Legacy application. I guess I was a trouble maker. I didn't understand how important education was going to be for me and I didn't really care. I know I caused my parents some hurt and disappointment because of how I was behaving.

I got into trouble because of who my friends were. We did some things that were wrong and disrespectful. Our teacher Mr. Vannote really put up with a lot of disrespect from me. My school success really suffered because of how I was behaving. I was more interested in being cute and funny then to study and learn. I refused to stop talking when Mr. Vannote was teaching. Middle school has been pretty difficult for me because of my choices in elementary school.

Now I'm trying to improve my grades because I know that my education is very important. I want to graduate from college and be a business man like my dad. My GPA right now is a 2.7. I spent 54 hours of my summer improving my Reading skills at Sylvan. I have an academic coach after school four days a week and this really helps me do well in school. My parents are very wise people and help me as much as they can. But, my school work is too difficult now for them to be able to help me. I know I need to be responsible for my future. I am making sacrifices and good choices with my friends so I can reach all my goals to be educated.

Thank you for your help and for listening to me.