

Princess Alicia Ducre Roosevelt High School

Rose spirit represents pride, hard work, strength, beauty, and diversity. If you would have asked me about rose spirit three years ago, I would not have been able to answer because I was embarrassed of my childhood and where I came from. I did not understand the importance of community because where I come from, it is everyone for themselves. No one in my life had faith in me and that was because I did not have faith in myself. I couldn't believe that I could succeed in life, because no one I knew had ever achieved their goals.

It wasn't until I started my sophomore year in high school that I started taking pride in myself. I realized that even though my parents weren't successful in life, I did not have to follow in their footsteps. At that point, I stopped isolating myself. I joined Step Up and started volunteering in my community. Through Step Up I realized it was okay to ask for help and that there were people there to support me. Through my time volunteering at Assumption Village, a retirement home for the elderly, I learned that to give is to get. The more I helped the residents, the more I learned about myself. Even though I didn't have a lot to give, the time I spent with the residents was valuable.

Because of neglect that took place in my childhood, I started high school at a 3rd grade reading level. Instead of allowing this obstacle to slow me down, I used it as motivation to work harder. I was determined to prove to everyone who put me down that I could be successful. I am now getting ready to graduate high school and have already been accepted into Western Oregon University. I know the meaning of hard work.

Every obstacle I have overcome in my life has made me who I am today, a strong and beautiful young woman; a woman who someday in the near future will be an elementary school teacher. I know the importance of early education and I am committed to helping minority children, who may be in a situation like I was, stay in school and succeed in life. Because there is no better feeling than showing the one's you love that you can make on your own.

Part of what contributed to my success was that I had created my own diverse community. I feel that Diversity is very important in a community. It teaches you how to see the beauty in different people because there is something to learn from everyone. If you surround yourself with people who are trying to make something of their life, then you will soon pick up their habits and strive to better yourself.

I show Rose Spirit everyday in my community with pride, hard work, strength, beauty and diversity.