

When the schools shut down because of COVID-19 all the kids were excited. I was too but for a different reason. Since we didn't have school anymore, I got to go to my GiGi and Pappy's house every day. This was exciting for me because my Pappy is very sick, he has what is called Parkinson's disease. My GiGi has M.S. so can't take care of him herself. My pappy can't walk on his own and sometimes needed help feeding himself. I liked being able to help him do things that he couldn't do on his own. He got sick over the summer and had to go to the hospital. The doctors said he was too weak to go home and he would have to go to a nursing home. This made me very sad because the nursing home doesn't allow visitors under the age of 12 to visit and I am only 10 years old.

COVID-19 made it very hard to do things that we normally did but it made me value time with my family more especially the time I had with my pappy. I have not been able to see him in person since July 2020. So, I am very happy that I got all those extra months with him before he went into the nursing home. While he was at the nursing home, he got COVID-19, I was very scared that it would make him worse and I wouldn't be able to say goodbye, but he recovered. My cousin works at the nursing home so sometimes we get to FaceTime him but because of the Parkinson's he doesn't always remember who I am.

The thing that I am looking forward to most as we move towards recovery is being able to see my pap and give him a big hug! I am also looking forward to being able to play with my friends at school and not having to social distance. Now that 5<sup>th</sup> grade is moved to the middle school, I will not get to play with my friends at recess like I have in years past. COVID-19 has been so hard on so many people but us kids have had it the worst. Having to wear masks all day at school makes it hard to focus sometimes. I am also always worried that I am getting to close to my friends at school and what if they are sick. I am ready to not always being worried that someone I know, or love is going to get sick.

I think the thing that Kiwanis can do to help us kids is to have a fun day where we can be just kids. I miss carnivals and fairs and being able to go to things with my friends. I want to play with them again but so many things are still closed or are getting canceled. It is great to see some things going back to "normal" but it is also still scary especially because I am still young and do not understand everything that is going on. COVID-19 has been such a learning time for so many and we are still figuring it out but I hope it is almost over so I can see and hug my Pappy again!

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