

**League of Women Voters of the Park Forest Area**  
**2010 Essay Contest Winners**

**A Woman Who Made a Difference**

By Leslie Elizabeth Garrett

For generations, women have made a difference. There is one woman I know of specifically.

Autherine Juanita Lucy struggled to attend college. She was denied admittance to the University of Alabama because she was an African American woman. Autherine decided to stand up for her rights.

In 1956, after a 3 year court battle, Autherine became the first African American woman enrolled at the University of Alabama. In 1956, on her third day of class, Autherine was suspended on the grounds they could not provide a safe environment for her. Lucy filed suit to have the suspension overturned. This suit, however, was used as a justification for permanent expulsion, claiming Lucy had slandered the university. Lucy did not give up.

In 1980, the University of Alabama finally overturned her expulsion. In 1992, Autherine earned her Masters degree in Elementary Education.

Today Autherine Lucy is celebrated by many. Harper Lee says Autherine was an influence when writing her famous book, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Autherine Lucy is also my Great-Great-Aunt.

My aunt taught me to never give up, no matter what. Everyday someone pushes forward to make a difference. My Aunt Autherine made a difference in the world, and for me.

**A Woman Who Has Made a Difference**

By Christina Gray

I picked Coretta Scott King as my woman who made a difference because she was beside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as he spoke to the people. I also picked her because she is so important that my school was named after her. That makes her very important to me. After her husband died she took over his responsibilities. In my opinion she is just as good as he was. Truthfully she is the best woman of them all. I mean who wouldn't like someone who your school is named after. She did a lot of public speaking just like her husband did. When her husband died she took over the work he was doing. I hate that she died in 2006. Although she is dead I still like how she took over for her husband after his unexpected death. I like that like her husband she said the color of a person's skin should not matter. She felt we were all equal. She marched in front to show she was a good leader. She always had a great attitude this is why she is important to me.

### **A Woman Who Has Made a Difference**

By Montel A. Murry

A woman who has made a difference in my life is my mom. She has not only made a difference in my life by has made a difference in the world. She has made a difference in my life by raising me of course. She has also thought me how to be edicut and also I think she was the first person that thought me how to play baseball. Most of my life my life my father hasn't lived with me so my mom had to also play the role of daddy. She's thought me how to be a nice young man and hold the door for anyone who is coming in or out. But with all these thing I think she's done a lot in the world too. Helping the environment by recycling also by giving back to the community and by helping my grandmother who is maturing every day. She is now going to school and getting good grades too! She's showing me that you can do it if I can. My mother Cheryl Butler has done a lot not just for me but for the world its small but counts.

### **A Woman Who Has Made a Difference**

By Ra'Jean Randle

I would like to type this paper about my mother, Debra Regena Randle. She is 39 years old she was born September 21, 1970 in Houston, Texas. I really love my mother and all she has done for me. My mother always pushes me to do my best. Even when she put me on punishment I know it's for the greater good. She is a phenomenal, inspiring person. I admirer her and want to follow in her foot steps by being an independent woman.

My mother always is there when I need a shoulder to lean on or a helping hand. She is the only person in this world that I can trust. The reason I say that is because if I tell her any thing I don't have to worry about her telling anyone. She makes sure I have everything I need and is always prepared for the day. But at the same time she makes sure I get what I want. My mother takes her children before any job or man. If she only had enough money to feed one person she would buy a meal that would feed me and my brother.

So I took the time to really show you what a real mother is like.