**An experience that taught me you to appreciate life more**

Knowing your mom is pregnant at young age, there are thousands of emotions that come to you, for me I was anxious, excited and happy. I was anxious, because I was supposed to have sibling 2 years before my mom’s second pregnancy but she had a miscarriage.

I was only 8 years old when my mom’s first pregnancy occurred, at that time I didn’t know how I felt, I was just a kid my mind was telling me it was a bad thing, but my parents said otherwise. Growing up I pretty much had brothers, my cousin Anson and his brother Andy, you might know them because they went to Riverside also. Anson’s only 2 years apart from me and we’ve lived next door for almost 11 years now. Growing up he took care of me, we had the same interests and our friends were all the same. When I heard my mom was going to have another kid, I was hoping it would be a boy just so he could be like Anson, but in his body. My mind reminded me of a light every time, I would be on and off about the idea of having sibling. I thought about having another person in my life, some days I’d be for the idea and happy, others I would feel like I wouldn’t get the same amount of love anymore because now there’s 2 of us. Speaking of Anson, he was a huge part in my life, and still is. I guess if it wasn’t for him I wouldn’t have been mature at a young age, he would get treated differently than me since I was younger. I never wanted to get treated differently and I told everyone that, I was disciplined the same, taught the same manners and growing up he’s taught me how to be humble and how to appreciate life. He taught me the small manners that matter in this society, holding the door for someone even though there far away, smiling at someone, helping old people whenever they need it, and even doing chores at home.

Months went by and I was just curious on what happened to my sister that passed away, and I remember asking my parents what happened, but judging by their reactions I knew it was sensitive, because they told I will learn when I’m older. Me being the little kid I was, I was still curious until I got the right answer that satisfied me, so I went and asked my older cousin Anson’s brother, Andy. Andy was the oldest out of all of us, he told me that my sister didn’t live because there were problems that happened, but he told me not to worry, because he believed that this time it will work and I shouldn’t have to be sad. Anson and I were very similar when it came to sports, but with Andy, we were different, we didn’t have anything In common other than video games we played, but we were still close. I guess where I’m going with this is that it’s nice having someone always there for you in different situations, and at this point I was fully ready to have a brother, no shame, I wasn’t upset anymore, I was happy.

Now to present day, I’m 18 years my brother would be approximately 8 years old now. Every time I see a BOGO sale on any website I always think about getting something for my brother. Where I am I have fully developed into a whole new person because of this experience. I’ve started to help my family with bills, chores almost anything I can help with. My parents have money and they’ve told me not to get a job, because they could support me for a long time. They even got me my own place whenever I wanted to move out. I know for myself I’m not moving out for a while, because I know how hard it is to get money now that, I’ve been working since I was 11, and summer going into grade 10 I got my first job at A&W, I worked there for about a year made almost $13,000. My second job I worked at Canadian tire during summer going into grade 11. I worked there for just under a year and made another $15,000, at this point my main focus was soccer. I’ve told my parents to help me with money if I really needed to, but so far they haven’t helped that much, I’ve bought myself a car, paying for insurance (trying to), and gas. I’ve appreciated life way more because of my cousins, because we grew up together, we went on many vacations together and we’ve done everything together. My life has been full of blessings and great experiences, I’m so lucky to have the parents I have, without them and their hard work I wouldn’t have been able to go almost everywhere in the world that I’ve ever dreamed of going, I’ve been to Jamaica, Columbia, Aruba, Mexico, New York, Toronto, Cleveland, China, Japan, and California and plenty more places. The one thing I’m grateful for is their support with me for soccer, I’ve been offered many scholarships for soccer, whether I take them or not is a different story, but my parents told me if I don’t have the passion to play then I don’t have to take the opportunity. The thing that meant the most to me was being at an age to finally understand what I feels like to lose someone, yes my mom had another miscarriage and cannot have any more kids. This time it was different, I wasn’t upset that I didn’t get a brother I felt like everything I did from that point on was for my family, and every time a big soccer game occurred, I always had the mindset of making my brother happy.

In conclusion I think the events I’ve experienced in life made me appreciate my life more than I already have. Within all these experiences, I’ve learned so much about myself and my parents. I’m lucky to have all my family actively supporting me through the hardships I’ve faced throughout my life.