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Immigrant Who Has a Positive Impact

I come from a long line of immigrants and many of them have had a great effect on my life in some way, shape or form. I have also come into contact with some immigrants who aren’t in my family who have made a long lasting impression. I find that the immigrants that I have come into contact with in my 20 years have taught me lessons in diversity, love, and culture that I believe that I could not have comprehended if I were not blessed to meet them. One such person is my grandmother, who has become my guiding light and is an immigrant from Haiti. Growing up in Port-au-Prince (the country’s capital city), my grandmother worked hard to earn her keep in her small home. She grew up to give birth to four children: my father, my uncle and my two aunts, and also raised a son who was not her own (my grandfather’s child), my uncle Sebastian. My grandmother did wonders in her country but continuing to live there was a far off option. When he children were reaching young adult ages, she made a bold move.

At the age of 35-years-old, my grandmother moved to the United States with my grandfather and rented out a small one-bedroom apartment for her and her five children. It was small and cramped but she raised them each to the best of her ability and one by one they all grew up and started lives of their own. But when my life started, I met my grandmother for the first time. My parent’s were young when they had me so my grandmother happily took me in. My grandmother taught me how to speak Haitian Creole and in the language, she would continue to teach me how to grow up, how to trust God, how to trust myself and, most importantly, how to exert my independence. She raised me to who I am today allowing me to make decisions while leading me subtly in the right direction. She did everything right and that is the positive influence I say she had in my life.

Unfortunately, she was taken away from me sooner than I expected last December. But in my memories, she left a legacy. She left me a young woman walking in her likeness. This is the most positive influence I can say that someone has left on me. Leaving me with the ability to know right from wrong, to protect myself when I need to and to open up when I want, to know that I am not a small fish in a big pond but rather a big fish in a big pond – there is no influence greater or more positive than that. My grandmother left me her heart and that is why she is the subject of this inquiry. Her experiences and her past is what made her who she was and by conjunction, allowed me to become who I am. I am glad she was an immigrant and I am glad she was my grandmother.