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Youth Violence

By: [REDACTED]

I was Outside on the street at night with my cousin. We were playing around and just relaxing and suddenly out of nowhere Bang Bang, I heard the shots! I was terrified for my life. Some thugs down the street were in a car and just shot a man for his money. I wanted to run and just get out of the area but I had to be stealthy so they didn't find me. I stayed hidden under the shadows of the houses making sure I didn't make a sound. I had to walk with some kind of tiptoe way. My heart rate was racing and pounding so hard I could feel it in my head! I started to cry a little bit for the man who was a victim of murder. It was too dark to see any of the gang members, they all had black hoodies and masks covering their faces. Suddenly a gang member jumped the fence, my heart was about to explode like a bomb with fear. Me and my cousin thought we were dead. I closed my eyes and put my hands up but then I felt a soft tap on my shoulder. My cousin tapped me signalling that everything was fine. The gang member acting as more of a friend than a thug. He got his backpack and took some paper, wrote on it then gave it to me he said report this to the police department, so I did. They were later arrested. Even the guy who gave me the note said Thank you to me. The paper had the information of all the people who were involved in the murder and the weapons. Then I woke up realising it was a dream.

Youth violence is a real struggle and problem. Most children exposed to some type of violence in their life might affect them by witnessing this, but not by the effect of being traumatized but by influencing violence. There are things we can do to stop this but first I just want to say that violence has affected my life like whenever I tried to play with other kids even if it's a simple sport or tag I would hurt somebody or play too rough. When I was even younger I was the biggest troublemaker in the school and I got into lots of fights. All this is what caused me to go to a new school and I ended up in the school I'm in now.

The causes of youth violence are basically by the influence around you. For example if you live in a bad neighborhood with huge amounts of violence you get affected like that in order for you to survive. If you live in a good neighborhood you become a better person because you weren't experienced to violence as much. So violence travels through influence. Things we can do to stop youth violence are to have programs to help children exposed to violence and try to make our communities a better place to live in. We can have a neighborhood watch and have police patrols more often.

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