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4th Grade

Have you ever felt upset because you are getting treated the wrong way? Well, if you feel let down you just need to keep going. In my opinion, you should advocate for what's right. People advocate for the things they think should be right, like Martin Luther King Jr. People like my mom who are not famous try to change the world for everyone. Throughout my life I have been fortunate enough to be able to have the rights that I deserve. Civil rights leaders have tried to change the degree of racism, but even in 2026 some people's lives had not been benefited. This essay is going to tell you about people I know who have benefited the world, and how you can benefit the world.

I grew up in a Jewish family, and a lot of my friends are African American and Hispanic. Thanks to the risk-takers who integrated public schools in the 1960s, I have the opportunity to go to whatever school my family decides is right for me. I am glad that people have changed opportunities for everyone so that me and my friends can go to school together and we can be together. Unfortunately, because of President Trump's law to let ICE in and bring people that are Hispanic back to the place they are native to, my community is losing a lot of our people. Now one of my best friends is moving back to Guatemala because her family does not believe that they have the equal rights that civil rights leaders fought for in the 1960s.

My mom did a lot during the time ICE was in New Orleans. She helped organize a program where some families would bring other students to school if their parents were afraid of leaving their home. My mom helped the people that were feeling discriminated against push-through and stay in school. During that time, we assisted two different families. Some of the kids were older than me, and some of them were younger. We had conversations and even though the little kids didn't know what was happening very well we tried to make them feel welcome in our car. My mom was inspired by a few Jewish people who marched beside Martin Luther King Jr., like Rabbi Abraham Joshua Haschel and Rabbi Joachim Prinz, and she inspires me. These changemakers follow the Jewish value of *Tikkun olam*.

Some of the best ways to advocate that things should be different is to have a peaceful protest. Rev. Jesse Jackson protested with Dr. King by crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge for the right to vote. A peaceful protest is when you and other people that want to make change take a stand in a nonviolent way. Another person during the civil rights movement was Claudette Colvin, who was the first African American to refuse to give up her seat to a Caucasian America as a nonviolent protest for the right to sit where you wanted to sit on a bus. These people did these acts peacefully so that everyone could have fair and equal rights not based on their skin color, financial situation, or gender. This helped change our world for everyone, not just African American people.

In conclusion, your voice can change the world by taking a stand. Some people like my mom and people like Claudette Colvin are trying to keep things fair and to make sure people feel welcome in their hometown. They call the United States "The Land of the Free," so that means people should not be getting kicked out of the Land of the Free just because they want opportunities for their families. I hope I have helped you learn how taking a stand can help benefit the whole world.