

Natalie Hatton

Elementary Division 2018

1st Place Winner

Daleville Elementary School

Fourth Grade, Stacey King- Teacher

There are many ways to show integrity to people who are different. My family and I have helped several Friendship Family students. A Friendship Family helps international students to “understand and become familiar with American culture and establish a support system” (Ball State University, 2018).

Two of our Ball State students are from Turkey. Their names are Ceran and Melike. While they were in Muncie, they missed their families. We made them feel more welcome. My family took them to different places in Indiana like the Children’s Museum of Indianapolis and even our church.

Over Melike’s Christmas break, she could not stay in her dorm, so we let her stay at our house. We made her feel welcome by giving her a bedroom. We celebrated Christmas and shared our traditions with her. My mom even made her a Christmas stocking. We included her in our family games and gave her gifts.

While Ceran was still here and came to our house, we did puzzles and ate together. She showed my parents how to make Turkish coffee. Even though Ceran moved back to Turkey, we still stay in touch with her through Skype. We talk mostly on birthdays and holidays. We show her what we’ve worked on since she’s left. She even asked if we would want to come visit her.

When we spend time with our Friendship Family students, I feel helpful because of the way my family helped them. We hope to keep inviting them into our lives. That is how I show integrity.

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Sources:

Ball State University (2018). Friendship Family. Retrieved 4 February 2018, from World Wide Web Site: <http://cms.bsu.edu/academics/centersandinstitutes/rinker/international-student-services/activities-and-programs/friendship-family>