

## Remo C. Bertugli Memorial Award Essay

***“Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile.”***

*Albert Einstein*

A great source of joy and pride in my life is derived from my role as a dance teacher’s assistant. In this capacity, I assist an adult dance teacher with a specific class of younger girls. My most recent experience has been working with a group of six girls, ages 6 to 9, in their introductory class to musical theatre.

The pleasure I derive from this experience is, interestingly enough, not based on reinforcing the aspects of acting, singing and dancing. Rather, it is with the relationship I form with “my girls.” Throughout the course of the school year, they have come to rely on me for extra help, guidance and advice. I derive the most pleasure from realizing that I have been there for them, modeling responsibility, strength of character, optimism and a team spirit.

Aside from the lessons learned about musical theatre techniques, I have realized a much more valuable impact on my life. Through “my girls” I have learned the value of patience, the importance of service to others and the heart warming satisfaction of volunteerism.

I feel quite confident that some of “my girls” will follow my example into pageantry, as I have honestly communicated with them about the benefits of the process. Now I understand how Mr. Bertugli must have felt while he was serving his community through, among other things, a variety of pageantry related experiences! The commitment and respect that grows in

**your heart once you realize the impact pageantry events can have on the lives of others is immeasurable.**

**I expect to peer out into the audience on the night of the Rain Day pageant and spot a few of my “students” who are sure to be enthralled by the process. Hopefully, the circle of pride in our community and service to others will continue to grow through this means. People such as Mr. Bertugli and his family understand the value of service of this kind. I am proud to do my part to help the circle of service and pride continue in our hometown.**

**“It's the Circle of Life  
And it moves us all  
Through despair and hope  
Through faith and love  
Till we find our place  
On the path unwinding  
In the Circle  
The Circle of Life”  
from *The Lion King***

***Elissa McCracken  
Miss Rain Day 2008***