



*Names and photos changed to protect the privacy of the families.

Dear Supporters,

Girls in our Valuable Girl Project (VGP) are not only empowered to continue their education but are also nurtured to build fortitude in dealing with life challenges – challenges that most of us could hardly fathom. Our participants face challenges and turn them into shining examples of unique courage. I was personally touched by Sharifa's* story which I would like to share with you.

Recently, both of Sharifa's parents died in an accident leaving her and her 4 younger sisters to be taken care of by her mute aunt. The children were able to remain in their family's home, but their neighbor thought he would be able to take advantage of the children without their father's protection, so he began making improvements in his home which would have completely blocked the only window and source of light in Sharifa's home.

However, Sharifa had been learning much about her civil rights and duties through her Big Sister. Hence, she refused to accept this injustice and compelled her aunt to go with her to the local police station to report the incident. If nothing else, she will not stand and watch without doing something to stop her neighbor from building. The case was too complicated for the police department to handle so the matter was referred to a judge.

On the day of the hearing, the neighbor had his daughter pretend to be injured. He had his daughter lie and say that the five children had beaten her up and threatened to continue beating her up if her father didn't stop making improvements. The judge was inclined to believe these lies until Sharifa who is only 13 years old stood up and spoke. She had the courage to speak up and show the judge a document her father had given her that clearly identified the building parameters. The judge believed Sharifa and forbid the neighbor from finishing the improvements to his home.

The Valuable Girl Project gives girls the confidence to stand up for themselves and their families. Your commitment and unwavering support will continue to create generations of educated and inspiring women who know what it takes to stand their ground.

Now you have an opportunity to sponsor a girl's participation in VGP for one year. Contact us to become an Advocate for Empowerment!

Sincerely,

Hanan Baky
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