

I was vacuuming out my car, listening to the radio, when I heard the commercial advertising the LASIK eye surgery contest for local teachers. I immediately grabbed my phone and searched the website mentioned to then see that the only teachers eligible were in Bay, Holmes, Washington and Jackson Counties. After thinking about why Calhoun County was not included in this contest, being that it backs up to both Jackson and Bay Counties, I decided to make a call to "The Eye Center of North Florida" and ask if it was true that a Calhoun County teacher could not be entered. The receptionist I received informed me that Calhoun County was included, so I proceeded on with the contest requirements.

My name is Bailey Johnson and I am writing this essay on behalf of my mother, Juanice Sanders, who has had 27 years of experience as a teacher. Not only has my mother been a teacher, but she, in my book, has been a well deserving local educator, teaching 22 years ESE (Exceptional Student Education), 2 years regular education, and 3 years high school intensive reading. My mother is currently a teacher at Blountstown High School and will continue to teach intensive reading for grades 10-12 in the upcoming 2017-2018 school year. For more information on my mother's teaching history you can contact Dr. Debbie Williams at Blountstown High School.

Going to the the same school where my mother teaches, on top of living with her, I spend a lot of time listening to her rant about what all she has to get done, what happened this day or that day, and so on; however, the one subject that repetitively is brought up is how bad her eyes are and how much worse they are getting. While listening to my mother talk about how blurry the kids faces are becoming and how she is not able to read the board to her students anymore, I begin to offer ideas such as making an eye appointment or buying some cheap Dollar Store glasses. Long story short, she took my advice on the Dollar Store glasses and is now complaining about how they are barely helping. If you are thinking, "Well, she should have went to see a professional," you are right; however, if you know of a teacher and are aware of their salary and health insurance situations, you know that some, or most, are not always financially fit to make a "quick appointment." My mother is a teacher who makes it paycheck to paycheck and sadly, Dollar Store glasses are the only option at the moment.

Many of times my mother and I have discussed the LASIK eye surgery, yet the conversation has always come to a dead end when the thought of how expensive it might be is brung up. If my mother were to win this contest, I have a strong feeling that the results of the surgery would allow her to teach more effectively and easily when preparing students to graduate.

As I finish writing this essay I call my mother in to read it and as she turns around she says, "Wait, let me go grab my glasses."