For this research, our group was able to interview four (4) students from the University of the Philippines Visayas Tacloban College. The highlight of the interview was to let the respondents share their own feelings, struggles and personal experiences about being in single-parent family, specifically under the custody of their father.

All our respondents are youths, and statistically there are high rates that they experience broken family, broken homes and broken lives. As part of the youth, we all know that family is one of the most important factors that could contribute to a life of a child since they are the ones who have the most time or the most opportunity to influence their own children.

Our first respondent is aliased as “Juan”, 19 years old, a management student and has been in a single-parent family since 2013. In that year, it is when Yolanda have struck Leyte and took the lives of Leyteneans, unfortunately, one of the lives that has been taken was his mother’s. And what makes it sadder is that until now, the body of his mother remains to be unfound. He said that for the first few weeks and months, it was uneasy for him to cope with the situation since he was used to his mother’s care than his father’s. He also shared how the situation affected their family in terms of emotional status and financial status. But despite their loss, they have continued to strive and to work together for what is best for their family.

Our second respondent is Fettilyn Grace B. Cuartela, 19 years old, and a biology student. The reason of single parenting is because her mother died of cancer. She explained how hard it was for her to accept that her mother has passed and how depressed she was about it. She also said that she is more acquainted with her mother’s care, because she does not have that intimate relationship with her father. According to Fettilyn, in spite of what have happened, it actually made her stronger and independent as a person and she wanted to be a role model to her other siblings. And what makes it more special is that her bond with his father became stronger as her father is trying his best to fill in the gaps within the family by doing the mother’s role.

Our third respondent is Clark Lajarka, 20 years old, and an economics student. Same with Fettilyn, the reason behind of single parenting was because her mother died due to a natural cause. According to him, it is natural to mourn if someone has died in your family, because eventually, a time will come that you will learn to accept everything and just move on. He said that it was very unusual for him because he was used to the act where all decisions were handled both by her mother and father. He also pointed out that he was also struggling financially because his minimum budget cut for his allowance has decreased. It was really hard for him since his father is only the breadwinner of the family. But because of patience, love and understanding, he was able to cope up with the challenges in his life.

Our fourth and final respondent is Emmanuel Teo, 19 years old, an accountancy student. According to Emmanuel, he is not sure if his parents are already divorced, but as of now, he is living with his father, and Emmanuel and his mother would just meet at special occasions. He said he never felt sad about not living together with her mother since they still have a constant communication with each other and constantly sends money monthly from abroad for his daily expenses. He also explained how he did not feel the lack in their family because his father would always try his best and never fails to support him through all aspects.

Our respondents may have shared different feelings and experiences, but what is common about them is they all tried to strive and to stand up after experiencing their downfall.