I would like to nominate Emma R. Scott for the MPOWER Award. Emma is a student at Brownsburg High School in Brownsburg Indiana. I mention her school because a large part of what Emma has accomplished has been inside the walls of Brownsburg High School.

We will start on January 26th, 2016 when Emma’s cousin and lifelong friend died from depression by suicide. Her cousin, Hudson Scott, was also a student at the high school. Cousins by blood, friends by choice- more like brother and sister. At only 4 months apart you would imagine that Emma’s world came crashing down.

After a brief absence from school Emma went back on a mission. She demanded that Hudson be honored with a moment of silence, you see the school didn’t deal well with Hudson’s suicide, as one would expect. They hadn’t dealt with the loss of a student this way in over 20 years. Please note that just a few weeks’ earlier students were in a fatal car accident and Emma knew that they were honored, as any student who passes should be. She got the moment of silence Hudson deserved, but she wasn’t done.

She had a vision that no other student would ever feel that they weren’t accepted or loved. She had a vision to create a Safe Space group that accepted all- NO MATTER WHAT! She had a vision that she would educate teachers and peers that mental health is health and awareness and training were needed.

Here we are 14 months later- the group is formed. The peer board members are being trained on suicide prevention, along with a few teachers that support the group. She is in the works of starting Project Hud;Son Safe Space countrywide!

She has accomplished so much all while dealing with her grief, her depression, and a heavy school load with the goal of graduation a year early. She is truly an amazing person who one day will become a Psychiatrist. I couldn’t be more proud of her. She is truly an inspiration.

Jenna Scott

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