Nehmya Negash

What is the hardest challenge I have faced and how has it defined me?

The hardest thing I had to face was living in Ethiopia. As a third world country Ethiopia was in deep poverty and faced lots of political issues. Life was hard and with my father mostly working in far states it became even more difficult . While my father was gone I had to step up and help my mother and keep my younger sister safe. Simple thing as water and electricity were tough to get in the country. The government would turn off the water pipes and the electric line almost every other day making it almost impossible to do basic thing as making food and having clean water. In one occasion water and electricity were gone for a whole week. My uncle and I would have to go buy water from other area where there was still water and carry it all the way back in containers. Water consumption had to be very low to make the most of the water so showers and other needs were kept to a minimum. Electricity was also another problem on its own. At night, there was no lights so we had to use candles and batteries to have some light in the house. The refrigerator doesn’t work so lots of food got spoiled. Communication was also an issue also because once the battery of my mother’s phone died there was no way to charge it again.

Getting a good education was very difficult too. My mother and I would have to travel almost 25 miles to get to my school. We would have to wake up very early in the morning and leave the house two hours before school starts to make it on time. We would sometimes be late because getting transportation was rigorous since we needed to get four different taxies to get there. After a couple of year when my sister was old enough for school our mother couldn’t take both of us that far so she put us both in some school near us. Safety was also a big concern for us. There were many thieves that robbed people in broad daylight so every day we had to travel with fear in our hearts. Many of my aunts and uncles have been robbed at gun-point and striped of everything they had on the spot. My family was lucky enough to have not been in such a terrible situation while we were there.

Living in Ethiopia and having gone through all that has made me who I am today. It has made me stronger physically and mentally. It has helped me to mature as caring and loving person. But mainly, it has made me appreciate life and work hard to reach my goals. Seeing the lows of life has made me thankful for everything I have ever been given. I know how it feels to be going through though hardships and that has defined me as a person who one day want to help the people going through these things.