



... gives double joy.™

PHOTOS SPEAK M1

**TURNING
LEMONS
INTO
LOVE**



Photos positively represent A'Layah Robinson



IMAGINE

...being a little kid and not having a single toy to play with or a blanket to comfort you. Sometimes you have to brush your teeth with a dirty rag because you don't have a toothbrush. These are just some of the things A'Layah Robinson and her brothers experienced when they were in foster care. A'Layah and her brother were eventually adopted by Misty Robinson in Sulphur, OK. A'Layah was so sad that her brother didn't have a single toy or have clothes or shoes that fit him when they got there. She had compassion for her brothers and some other kids in foster care. That inspired her to come up with a way to provide foster kids with "love packages."

When A'Layah was just 4, she had the idea to give a toy to every foster care child. At age 5, when A'Layah and her adoptive family were out, she saw teenagers running a lemonade stand. Misty bought lemonade from the teenagers to support them, after which A'Layah asked her why. Misty explained they were raising money for a quinceanera, a celebration of a girl's 15th birthday in Hispanic cultures. The teenagers needed dresses and tuxes to wear. It was then that A'Layah decided she would sell lemonade to raise money for kids in foster care. She made \$136 on her first lemonade stand! Instead of buying something for herself, she created 24 love packages for foster kids. At age 6, she created Lemonade for Love to continue raising money for kids in foster care.

A'Layah understands how difficult it can sometimes be in foster care, going from home to home, without feeling comfortable. She used her difficult times to have compassion for others in similar circumstances. "I don't need any donations. The foster kids do. Because I have money. All I need is a TV, a keyboard, a bed, my mom and a Bible. That's all I need," she says. It is very important to her that all the love packages contain a toy, a toothbrush, possibly other hygienic items, a blanket and a Bible

in a drawstring backpack. She specifically chooses these items because she went without them in foster care.

Lemonade for Love has raised over \$18,000 dollars. This has allowed A'Layah to serve 1,000 foster care children. There are 400,540 kids in foster care throughout the United States. A'Layah wants to get a love package to every single kid. Her packages send a message of compassion and provide encouragement to foster care kids.

It all works together. A'Layah has compassion because of her experiences, and she is grateful for her adoptive home and what she now has. She hopes her giving back will inspire others to have compassion, too. Misty says, "She inspires me to be better." What experiences have you had that can lead you to have compassion for people in similar circumstances? How can you show compassion to help you write your own best *True Success*[™] lifestory?

QUESTIONS LEAD TO UNDERSTANDING M2/5

1. Who did A'Layah have compassion for? What did she do that showed compassion?

2. What experiences did A'Layah have that created this compassion?

3. How can you learn from A'Layah's actions to discover who or what you have compassion for? How can you turn that compassion into action?

Copyright © 2020-21, TrueSuccess[®] Inc., TrueSuccess Secondary SEL/Character Planner