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Community House

## Do the Write Thing

Has drug abuse affected you? Well it has affected me a lot. How? Well, my mom. She is an alcoholic, starting at thirteen. Now, because she's an alcoholic, she's alone. My dad got divorced from her. I'm kind of glad though, because now I don't have to worry that something bad will happen to me or my brother. You know the saying the apple doesn't fall far from the tree? Well it's not the same for me and my brother. My family is all different and unique. Like apples, there are all different shapes and sizes and even colors, but they are all apples. Like we are as a family!

Violent, no. Friendly, yes. Violence is a choice you make, its what some people choose to do. People don't just wake up and say, "I'm going to be violent today." They have a reason. For example, divorce, that's a popular reason to choose wrong over right. Even though my parents are divorced, I'm still happy, I still have friends. I don't go around with gossip and hurting people in every way possible. I actually help people.

What do you do to prevent youth violence? Do you want to do something about it? Well then, here is what I want you to do: the next time you see someone sad, talk to them. Or even just go up to someone and say, "I like your shirt," and trust me, you and that person will smile. You will make someone's day. What do I do? I started a service club at my school, called the Caring Cavs, or Cavaliers. We go to soup kitchens, hospitals and senior centers, and we raise money for charities. And personally, I started a drive at my church, and held lemonade stands for 2-3 weeks, so that each of the 2500 students in Bayonnais, Haiti could have his or her own pencil, sharpener and eraser.

This is what I need you to think about: what do you do everyday to help someone or make them smile?