

First Place
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No More Lonely Lunches

Imagine a fourteen year-old girl. It is her first day of school. She walks cautiously down the hallway in a new pink skirt her mom helped her pick out. The morning goes by without a hitch. Then, lunch period starts. She takes her crumpled brown paper bag lunch and frantically starts scanning the over-crowded room for a familiar face. Loneliness begins to creep in. In an attempt to avoid the inevitable, she runs to the bathroom. After finishing her smushed peanut butter and jelly sandwich in the stall, she forces herself to dive into the sea of blank faces once more. She suddenly feels thousands of blemished features turned toward her. She walks faster, trying to hold back the tears. Then, out of nowhere, a smiling girl comes towards her and informs her that her perfect pink skirt is tucked in her underwear. However, the smiling girl does not mock or leave. She creates conversation and suddenly, the fourteen year-old girl feels comfortable.

This is not just a story. Everyday thousands of teenage boys and girls are eating alone in the bathroom. On the other hand, not every one of those girls and boys has a smiling stranger to come to the rescue. However, that is the problem with society today. We are too busy caring about ourselves, when we simply need to look up and find those lost teenagers, who just want so badly to fit in. If teenagers would look up from their flashy cellphones and discover who needs a friend and act, the world would be a better place. If high schools come together as communities, working together for one common purpose, who knows what could be achieved.

High schools take pride in a variety of different activities and clubs. Service clubs, such as the National Honor Society, Key Club, Leo Club, Link Crew, and many others, assist in making the city of Chandler a fantastic place to live. High schools, with strong bonds, would have more opportunities to create an ideal community.

The National Honor Society, the Chandler Arizona chapter, works hard to be available to serve in all different capacities in the community, whether it be volunteering at an elementary school carnival, or having a talent show to raise money for charity.

The schools in the Chandler district have a massive impact on the people around them. In order to make a difference, it only takes one school, to step up and say "we have your back." It only takes one person to turn a community from good to great.

Remember that story of the lonely fourteen year-old girl? It turns out that she is a natural born leader. She was not going to join a club because she thought she was not good enough. Nevertheless, simply because one smiling girl accepted her, she gained enough confidence to join Key Club. She later became president of the club. She is making a difference, one step at a time.