



## **Kindest Kansas Citian Sample Winning Essays**



**By: Reed Sorenson – Top 3 Finalist  
Prairie Ridge Elementary – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**

I nominate Kristi Kreutzer as the kindest Kansas Citian because she helped my mom get a kidney transplant. She wanted to donate a kidney to my mom after she found out my mom was going into kidney failure. My mom has a special blood type that did not match Kristi's. But when she found a program at University of Kansas Hospital called paired kidney exchange. Kristi gave her kidney to a stranger on the East Coast that matched her. In return, another stranger from the East Coast gave my mom a kidney! Because of Kristi's kindness, two successful kidney transplants took place. Kristi is very brave and had a lot of pain after surgery. She never complained and was so excited that my mom was finally free from dialysis. Kristi is the kindest person I know because she saved my mom's life.

**By: Hanna Halsey - Top 3 Finalist  
St Gabriel – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade**

To me, Elizabeth is my Kindest Kansas Citian because when my mom was deployed in Cuba for two years, and 22 months Elizabeth took care of me. I was scared to be away from my mom for that long. When I got to her house we first decorated my new room. Since I did not have any toys to play she gave me some of her toys. It was a hard time for her because she had college and she had to take care of her cat and her dog, but she always took care of me first. Sometimes at night I would get scared, so before I went to bed at night she would read me two stories and we would sing two songs. And at night she would check on me. So if I had a bad dream she would come in and turn on my glowing stars. Sometimes she would invite her friends over but, before she did anything she would tell me first. When they played games she would always let me play with them. At school I would have trouble with my friends and with people bullying me, so she gave advice. And if that did not work she would tell me how to handle my problem's with kindness. Elizabeth always supports my art, my books, especially the sports that I do.

**By: Samuel Paul – Top 20 Finalist  
Sunset Ridge Elementary – Kindergarten**

To me, Pete is my Kindest Kansas Citian because... you have been so helpful to me and my family to help with my Autism. You helped me learn to speak, ask questions, play baseball, go potty, to read, write and so many other things that I need help with. You have been there to celebrate all of my accomplishments and have supported my family during the hard time. You have become part of our family. We thank you for all you have done for us.

**By: Daley Byars – Top 20 Finalist  
St. Therese - 2nd Grade**

Bri is the Kindest Kansas Citian because she saves people's lives and helps with animals. She is my babysitter when Bri is kind to me, it makes me feel special. Bri has taught me to care for animals and to love them. Every time Bri babysits us she lets us go to her house to see her kitten. He is so cute. Bri is my favorite babysitter. She's always kind to others. Once we went on a medical trip with her husband to work in a hospital. She is helping others in a hospital, I want to be just like her, Bri is my Kindest Kansas Citian.

**By: Eleni Fotopoulos – Top 20 Finalist  
Cedar Hills Elementary - 5th Grade**

To me, Vanessa Peterson is my Kindest Kansas Citian because... of her care and compassion. Vanessa became apart of our family last summer when she started as a helper/caregiver for my brother Demetri, who has Cornelia de Lange Syndrome. Immediately I saw the amazing care she was giving him. She quickly learned his schedule, how to make and give him his food and medications, and even take him swimming. The interest and kindness she showed for my sisters and myself started right away, and she began watching us also.

In the short time I've known her we have become great friends. Vanessa would play almost anything we wanted like hair, make-up, and house. She helped me cope with my Papou's passing by talking to me about my feelings and distracting me. This past December, Demetri became very sick and was hospitalized and was put on a ventilator/life support. Vanessa chose to give up her winter break to care for my sisters and I. This way my parents could be with Demetri. She played with us, took us to the movies, did our laundry, and kept our house in order all to keep us distracted and to help our parents. She also took us to the hospital one day to see Demetri when we were all sad. Despite all that she did for us, she refused any pay from my parents.

Vanessa has all so showed her compassion in her helpfulness towards many others. She has helped orphans in China by volunteering her time at an orphanage during summer breaks. She has also helped other children and adults with special needs through her work at Camp Barnabas. And I am inspired by her plan to open a business employed by people with special needs/disabilities after college.

Because my brother can't speak, I am writing this on Vanessa on behalf of myself and my brother Demetri. She has shown many great qualities, but most of all are kindness and compassion she has shown to me, my family, and many other people around the world.

**By: Shay Tener – Top 20 Finalist  
RoseHill Elementary - 6th Grade**

I would like to nominate my school, RoseHill Elementary, as the kindest Kansas Citian(s) for them being nicer than my other schools. At my old school I was given three bloody noses, several bruises, and lots of dirt on my clothes. Here people are a lot nicer, they help me with my work, say please and thank you, and laugh with me not at me. I have many friends here where at my old school I had many bullies. The reason I like this school is because people treat me are equally and are helpful not hurtful.

A second reason I like this school is the teachers try to work with me and have more patience. My old school teacher once called me autistic but here the teachers have said I'm very intelligent. My old school teacher laughed at me when I used the # as a number sign but here my teacher tells me that is a good way to abbreviate the word "numbers". Here my teacher treats me like a friend but there they treated me like an enemy. Here the teachers try to help me with bullies but there they just yelled at me to go to the nurse.

The third reason I like this school is for the teamwork. Everyone would help even if it doesn't help them. The people listen to ideas, show interest, and explain things to me when they don't make sense. I have made many friends here and students treat me nicely. I would like to say thank you RoseHill Elementary.

**By: Kelsi Cox – Top 20 Finalist  
Fort Osage High School - 10th Grade**

Most of my childhood my mother was home to take care of me but when my brother started school, she went back to work. This meant that he and I would be home alone before and after school. Worried about who would take their children to and from school, they reached out to a neighbor who has been very kind to us throughout the years. This neighbor is Carl Hale. He is a man who has always put everyone else first and never asks for much in return. That to me is kindness in it's finest form.

Every morning he would come over to my house and make sure my brother and I didn't burn the house down before he could get us to school. We may have argued about tiny things while I was getting ready to leave sometimes, let's face it I was a mess in elementary school, but every single day he showed up again to help me get there. Sure he could have said no and my parents could have found something else, but he didn't. He stayed with us after school as well to make sure we were still doing okay.

Carl does way more for my family and I than just taking us to school when we were younger. Every year, and I mean every single year, Carl has gotten my brother and I birthday and Christmas cards with a bit of cash in there. Again asking nothing in return. He treats us like family. When we take him out to eat sometimes he won't let us pay for his food, and it's a struggle to pay for our own. When we are renovating or building something in the house he always offers help and a few power tools along with it. Carl even helped my father find my car and then hide it in his driveway until I got it Christmas morning.

Carl has been a great role model for me and is someone who I look up to. I see the things he does for my family and others and it pushes me to do more to help people as well. I hope that one day when I am old I will see more of him in myself. I hope to see the same strive to lend a helping hand even when it's not asked for. The same strive to be there for people in the way he is for others. The same positivity he has even though there has been so much tragedy in his life. One day I hope to be just as kind as he is.