

3rd Place

5th-6th Grade

23rd Annual Student Essay Contest | Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum

Helping Hand

“You and I might not know each other, but in a time of need, we would help each other,” Victor Chavez, Uncle of Zackary Taylor Chavez who sadly perished in the bombing at age three. Have you ever been in a really bad storm? Or any event that caused destruction? Well on April 19, 1995 at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City, hundreds of people witnessed what some might consider one of the worst acts of destruction America has ever seen. I considered this quote very important because it really shows how Oklahomans are. It shows what we do as Oklahomans when there are people that need our help or support.

On that terrible day, every able-bodied person in Oklahoma, some even around the country, did anything they could to help anyone in a time of hopelessness and need. This really is a great example of how Oklahoma is. It displays that even if you weren't affected by what happened, people just tried to give. You can see videos of people giving blood, people giving food, people giving medical attention to victims, you can even see clips of two people just handing out pizza to law enforcement or firefighters! Gifts big or small, everyone was doing something. This really is a great example of what people do to help their community!

There are many, many events in which people come together to help their state, country, or even something as small as a neighborhood or local park. A good example of this situation is the current war in Israel. Thousands of people all over the world are donating food and blood and money, and giving any kind of help to the refugees leaving Israel and Gaza, and trying to get transport for the families and people that can't get out.

When we help, we give hope, so I think this really is a good representation of our community here in Oklahoma. I may not have been able to help that day, but I do know if I was there I would try to do everything I could to help people. Everyone was just trying to give a helping hand that horrendous day. A lot of people like to say that they would help in a time like the bombing, I think I would, but we can never know for sure if we weren't there. If you were there on that day, would you try to help anybody and everybody you could?