

# Honoring the Life of Helena Ramsay

By Aisha Moktadier



Warm April sunshine pours through the large sliding glass doors of Anne Ramsay's home and onto a table filled with a baby book, a pile of envelopes, and some photographs of a young girl smiling with friends and family. The girl in the photo is her daughter, Helena Ramsay, a 17-year-old student who was known for her caring and compassionate attitude towards others and her burning desire for making the world a better place.

If you ask Anne Ramsay to describe her daughter in three words, she would say intelligent, (naturally) beautiful, and creative. Her daughter, Helena Ramsay, lost her life in the tragic Marjory Stoneman Douglas shooting in Parkland, Florida.

Though Helena was a victim of a tragedy that struck the nation, her vision for a better global society continues and is shared with others who have survived her.

"For her, it was about caring for others who were suffering," says Anne. "If we all help each other, I think she thought the world would be a more equitable place."

For many young people, high school is the time in their life where they begin to find their voice and establish an identity. This is the point where one begins to discover what he or she wants to do with their future, and how they can make a difference. For Helena, this was very true.

"She was just blossoming and finding her voice," says Anne.

Those close to Helena describe her as someone who was "undeniably, unapologetically herself." She was known for her activist spirit, but also for her love of Korean culture, make-up, and the game show *Jeopardy*.

On a small wooden table there is a container of *Quality Street* chocolates, some of Helena's favorites, and in the living room, there is a small bowl filled with beautiful ceramic charms that I would later find out she had hand-made herself.

Anne keeps a board of small mementos she has from throughout Helena's life, which she pins on with thumbtacks. It is here you will find bits of what made her special: a witty sense of humor, a ton of artistic talent, and love that ran deep for her family and friends. All of this is seen from her childhood drawings, comic strips, letters to her mother, and small art pieces she made throughout her life.

"She was really something," says Anne, as she swipes through photos of her daughter smiling, laughing, and blowing out birthday candles on a cake. "I saw her as a leader in the future, and she was just beginning to find that."

To help keep Helena's voice and vision for a better world alive, MedPro Healthcare Staffing has created the Helena Ramsay Soaring Leader Scholarship. This legacy scholarship will be awarded annually to a Marjory Stoneman Douglas student who has shown a commitment to Helena's vision of creating stronger societies by making a positive impact on a community or cause.

Helena Ramsay is survived by her mother, Anne Ramsay, her father, Vincent Ramsay, and her brother, Ellis Ramsay. Additional donations can be made to the [Helena Ramsay MSD Memorial Fund](#).