

My Moment of Awesomeness: Home Alone
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"Are you going to be okay being home alone with your brothers?" were the words of my parents as they left for their flight. My simple reply to my mom's question was, "Of course." Yet deep inside I was uneasy and nervous, knowing my load, as a high school senior, became heavier. Living in Hawaii and having my parents' business in the Philippines has never really been an issue until this year. Due to tight financial circumstances, they have had to fly to the Philippines over three times for extended periods. Over the course of this year, my dad has been gone for a total of six months, and my mom has been gone for two months. Meaning, for weeks at a time I have been left home alone with my two younger siblings. With both my parents being gone, I was now cognizant that I was the sole person responsible for cooking, cleaning, driving, and on top of that, attending school, seminary (part of my religious affiliation), and all my extracurricular activities. That alone, scared me.

Before my parents left, my mom took care of a lot of the cleaning and was responsible for cooking school lunches and family dinners. My dad on the other hand, did most of the driving. This meant that on a daily basis, I had to take on the responsibilities, fulfilling both roles of my parents: waking my brothers up for school, cooking them breakfast, preparing their school lunches, driving, and making sure they were at the right place at the right time. I knew that I wasn't the only one making a sacrifice, so I did my best to fulfill every responsibility that was laid out for me. I began to realize how important my responsibilities were and how essential it was that I accomplished each of them. It became difficult to be able to keep up with every task that came my way, and often times I would become so overwhelmed. I remember sitting in my room sobbing, thinking I wasn't equipped to handle such large tasks. However, I learned to develop a system that allowed me to accomplish what needed to be done.

By the end of the several weeks my parents were gone, I felt a sense of accomplishment and maturity. In the end, what left the deepest impression was the value of never giving up. The act of playing the role as both my mom and dad was the ultimate event that marked my transition from childhood to adulthood. With so many responsibilities on my plate, I was able to learn how to manage my time better, be more on top of my work, and become more

organized. Through this experience, I have gained a greater understanding of the duties of an adult and the hard work that is needed to get things done. Due to this event, I am prepared to take on the tasks and difficulties I will face in college. I am certain that this experience has shaped me into a more independent being, ready to take on the responsibilities of adulthood.

This event marked my biggest moment of “awesomeness” because not only was I able to manage all the responsibilities, but I was able to grow into a young woman ready for adulthood. Being able to take on and accomplish such tasks on my own allowed me to come to the realization that I can do anything I set my mind to. Though it took some time to come to this realization, I have applied this moment to all other decisions, tasks, and experiences in my life. Through this experience, I have learned that it is in the moments of individual growth that we, as people, are able to create moments of awesomeness. Although it was difficult at times, I know that I have gained a greater understanding of the responsibilities adults face each day. There is no doubt that this experience will allow me to excel and become a responsible young woman.