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As a four-year member of the Drug-Free Club and having served one year as an ambassador, my view on the club has changed in many ways. As a freshman, joining this club, my understanding of Drug Free Clubs was somewhat superficial. I saw it only as a club that helped promote a drug-free lifestyle. This seemed like something that aligned with my personal views and my desire to stay healthy and focused on school. That said, my involvement over the years has strengthened my appreciation and understanding of the Drug Free Club's impact at a school, county, and state level.

During my first three years as a member, I participated in various activities and events that were organized through the DFCA. Through field trips, reward-days, and "Drug-Free Rallies", my eyes were opened, and I was educated about the dangers of drug use and the importance of making positive life choices. I also appreciated the sense of community that DFCA brought me. It was reassuring to know that I was surrounded by like-minded individuals who were committed to the same healthy lifestyle as I am. However, even with my involvement, my role was mostly passive. I did not fully grasp the extent of the club's impact until last year. While attending a Drug-Free Rally, one of my classmates got up and spoke. She was very vulnerable to the fact that she came from a family of addicts and she herself was headed down the same path. Instead of letting drugs take over her life, she turned to this club, and it not only helped pull her out of addiction but brought awareness to a few of her family members and helped them as well. This was incredibly inspiring to me and encouraged me to focus more on what the club actually stood for.

As someone with many extended family members who are addicts, this inspiration helped me to show them that there is still hope. Once they realized just how many people in our family cared about them, they too decided it was time to escape the trap of drugs. Two members of my family have completely turned their lives around. One has become an amazing father and husband. He has a good job and now attends all his kid's school functions. The other now has a place to live, a job, and is in a stable relationship. He attends church weekly and is constantly trying to become a better version of himself. Knowing that I played a tiny part in helping them break the cycle they'd been in for twenty plus years, feels incredible.

I've spent this last year of high school being an ambassador for DFCA. I have spread the word about living a healthy lifestyle, attended field trips, and helped with drug testing at our school. This role has given me a firsthand look at the challenges and rewards of a drug-free life. I realized that DFCA is not just about living drug-free, it is about empowering the people around me to make good choices and support one another in achieving their goals. My view has shifted from seeing DFCA as a club, to recognizing it as a vital movement in schools all across America.