

My name is Brooklyn Witherspoon. I am 10 years old and my favorite color is  
00:06  
blue and purple. My cousin Ayanna was very nice, had an energetic personality,  
00:15  
she's just amazing and nice and would always love everybody, would never do anybody any harm,  
00:21  
would come up and hug people. You know, she didn't even know who they were, she was just, Ayanna  
00:26  
was just amazing. So basically, what happened with Ayanna was, she was sleep with her grandmother and  
00:33  
somebody came into, well was outside of their house, and shot shot inside of their house, and  
00:40  
she basically got shot. That's basically the full description. Ayanna was seven years old and she,  
00:49  
it really made me sad when she passed away. Ayanna was like a sister to me. We was so close.  
00:58  
I was eight years old because I am one year older than her. yeah. And what I did,  
01:06  
was I used something that was horrible and just made it something good to help other  
01:13  
kids so they're not in our same position. Just stay out of violence, stay off the streets,  
01:18  
other stuff like that. To give them something to do so they're not doing something bad.  
01:23  
That's what my program is about A Bridge 4 Kids. I talked to my um, my mom, and I talked about mimi  
01:29  
which is my grandmother. So, if i say mimi that means grandmother. So, I talked to my mimi and  
01:36  
she's like, yeah, I'm totally on board with it. My mom's totally on board with it. And we're  
01:42  
just like okay. And then from there, blessings just started coming in and like, people started-  
01:48  
oh our Christmas party- people started, we had a Christmas party, and first um, Sonya Dalton, her  
01:56  
daughter, was it was her first Christmas without her mother because her mother got hit by a car. So  
02:02  
we had the Christmas party on the 21st, and her birthday was the 22nd, so it was kind of like  
02:09  
Christmas and a birthday for her. So, we just want to be nice and stuff like that for other people.  
02:16  
The first thing we did was when the fire department um came, -thank you Fire Department  
02:22  
3 for helping us we really appreciate y'all! - but they came and helped us and we loved it!  
02:28  
They taught the kids so much about um, fire safety. And then after that the firehouse came  
02:35  
and they like, said what happened, how do gas fires and all the different stuff like that and  
02:42  
the kids really learned something. So, I loved it. It was fun. All ages do the different categories  
02:48  
but sometimes we have to like, for little kids we have to like, section it off a little bit. So the  
02:53  
first stage of A Bridge 4 Kids is when everybody comes in. They're meeting each other. They're kind  
02:57  
of learning. And then the second stage is Bridging the Gap where we have mentors come in. But we  
03:04  
kind of need a little bit more help with mentors. So, they can like come in and talk a little bit and  
03:08  
they're learning more stuff. And then Unity and Youth, and we have a lot of mentors and they like  
03:15  
really come in and start helping. And we have fire departments coming in and all that. And  
03:21  
they just they love it. I think it's really fun. We're trying to get people to come in  
03:26  
and talk to them about job interviews because we did have a six, well she still comes in,  
03:33  
we talk about a 16 -15-year-old and we're trying to get her a little summer job. It costs no money.  
03:41  
Nothing at all. And even if you need somebody to bring you, can always reach out to somebody.  
03:47  
If you need to try to find a way to contact us, we can try to get you there you know.  
03:53  
But I really think they can always come. It's been amazing. I really like all the

04:01  
people who came in and helped Ms. Natasha Wilkes is one that helps. All my family.

04:07  
All the people that give me awards. Everybody. I really love it. And when they give me awards

04:12  
I don't just take it as, oh it's me, I take it as for everybody that's in A Bridge 4 Kids

04:18  
and the awards, they mean something but to me, that means oh people are recognizing me,

04:23  
recognizing me do something in Salisbury. Like when I was on the news, oh everybody's going

04:28  
to be able to see it. Like they understand what I'm doing and from then kind of more kids came in

04:34  
if you think about it. Because their parents are like, oh you have to go here it's really amazing.

04:39  
I think the future will be most, they won't see many kids on the streets. I think there'd be no

04:46  
kids on the streets like, like you'll see kids out playing kickball with each other,

04:52  
playing basketball. You see more kids coming together and playing together and

04:57  
not on the streets and stuff like that. I think we're going to start doing more.

05:04  
Not saying our activities are not fun, but even more funner activities. Having, make,

05:10  
do more advertisements so people will keep coming in. And if you're a little person watching this,

05:17  
you could do anything! You are very strong and beautiful! Or if you're a boy, handsome.

05:23  
Work for a cause, not for applause. Live life to express, not to impress.

05:30  
Here's My story is funded in part by the Z Smith Reynolds Foundation. To share your

05:36  
story, please contact Rowan-Cabarrus Community College by emailing [heresmystory@rccc.edu](mailto:heresmystory@rccc.edu)