

**Nataly Antunez**

**Westbrook Middle School**

**8th Grade**

One cannot help but be inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and the things he did to change the world and our society. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Every one of us wants our justice and freedom. Regardless of all the racial drawbacks Martin Luther King faced—hatred and death threats—he never gave up on securing justice and freedom for each and every one of us.

As a 13-year-old with immigrant parents, I've witnessed my parents' justice and freedom constantly being taken away. My parents were young when they came to this country, hoping I would experience the justice and freedom that they never got to experience in Honduras. When I was born my mom tried to do everything in her power to provide and make me have the best life possible, better than she did back in our home country. While my mom was trying her best to provide for our family, people would look at her differently than others. People would tell my mom she didn't belong here. She wasn't equal to all other people in this country. Her justice and freedom didn't exist in this country, most of the time it was either her skin tone or the way she spoke English with her accent. Martin Luther King Jr. played a huge role in me and my parents' lives. Without Martin Luther King Jr. and his dreams he accomplished, I would have never gotten the education and the life that I get to live today. If it wasn't for Martin Luther King Jr.'s efforts and sacrifices I wouldn't have my justice and freedom. Without the leadership and vision of Martin Luther King Jr., immigrant families like mine would face significantly greater challenges in our pursuit of equality and opportunity. I have a dream that when immigrant families come to this beautiful country we will be welcomed and respected by everyone regardless of our accents or our appearances.