

On Jan. 16, 2021, I watched the YouTube video assigned to us called "Poor Kids" which was very emotional and hard to watch. It was an hour long and it followed 3 different families for a period of 5 years. The hardest part was just the sound of the kids little innocent voices as they told their story from their point of view. They had no clue what it was like to be a parent and responsible for their wellbeing, but they had to bear the consequences of the cards they were dealt and even though they were aware of their situations and effected by them, I could still see the light in their eyes. It made me very emotional to hear some of them talk about being hungry, giving up their dog because they could not afford the extra expense, or even not being able to go to school because they are in a hotel and their mom could not get them signed into a school at that time. I also cringed at the story of them being made fun of at school for living in a shelter or being poor in general. I found myself fighting back tears and then I wanted to just shut off the emotion and just get through the video without feeling anything... I have had an emotional and tiring personal life these past couple of months and It has been hard enough trying to stay positive and keep going in nursing school that I just did not want to feel or see anything sad. I am tired of being sad, but then I felt guilty for trying to watch the rest of the video with a shutdown attitude because that is just like turning a blind eye to the reality many must face and it is the emotion and passion, we need to want to help others. The children in this video knew from their experiences that everything costs money, even the necessities of life and they began to look at their own lives and plan towards a future that would hopefully not be the same as their current situation. This reminded me of my oldest son back when he was younger, and my husband and I struggled a lot. We would get on to the kids all the time about not leaving the water on while brushing their teeth or to shut all the lights off when they were not using it and to not waste food because all these things cost money and we did not have much of that. My son was so shocked when he found out it costed money for us to have water or light. He was so upset and said when he grew up, he was going to become big and make water and lights free for everyone. Another part of this video that reminded me of my other son was when one of the kids in the video said he missed the internet the most and he described how great he was in one of the games he played but in real life he was just a 14 yr. old boy who had nothing going for himself. My younger son is now 14 and he tells me when I have life talks with him that he likes to play his games all day because it is an escape from his real life. The sad thing is that his life is good, and he has everything he needs and some of his wants. I plan to have him watch this video because I think it would be good for him to see how good he has it and to realize there are others who do not have food much less games and so forth. I was excited to see how these kids in the video were doing when they started showing them 5 years later and to my surprise all 3 of these family's situations had not changed much. The girl named Jasmine really touched me though when she spoke about her father and how he worked hard and she felt people do not even realize or really know how hard he works and she fought back tears, she loves her dad, and she is a teenager now and she understand more, and she truly appreciates her dad. Jasmine's brother went to live with his grandma because he ended up hanging around the wrong crowd and eventually ended up in jail where he met his reality check, and I was proud to hear him realize that is not what he wanted for his life and he was going to make the adjustments to do better. I also seen how one of the family's son had grown up to be 18 and dropped out of high school and his sister just seemed to except that bad things happen all the time and became numb to it all and did not exactly expect to see better for her future. They all seemed to worry for their own future and kids they may one day have and scared for their kids to maybe one day experience what they had to experience. It just makes me sad to see how the struggle in life can just break a person down and make them feel there is no hope. These kids were very smart though and they knew they needed to get an education and fight

for what they wanted. This made me take a good look at my life and realize that even when I think I cannot keep going, I can... I want to fight harder to achieve what I want in life to provide for my family and to help others in life. It makes me want to be there any way I can for people who need a helping hand, and I am so happy I chose to go for such a rewarding career. I am so ready to make a difference. I plan to use this video as a reminder of the strength we all need from each other and support of each other and why it is so important to chase my dreams and keep my eyes open and my heart full of passion because there are so many lives God is going to use me to touch and I'm excited for this journey.

Stephanie Garza