



Susan H. Garlinghouse Humanitarian Award (Presented by Hayley Smith & Susan Garlinghouse): Josie L.

The Susan H. Garlinghouse Humanitarian Award was established in the 2006-2007 school year to honor one of the school's founders. In addition to helping establish Topeka Collegiate School, Susan has been helping improve life in Topeka through her many years of community service. I have the privilege to introduce Susan Garlinghouse and would like to invite her to share a few words with you all. Susan?

Susan: The power of one is the theory that one person can change the future, that one person's actions and words can actually change the lives of many.

So today I want to remind you how important your actions and words can be. You each own that super power. Each of you is the power of one.

Several years ago we talked about a young boy who in a horrible rainstorm, somewhere in India, saw a huge and I mean really huge tree across the roadway causing a horrible back up of traffic. This boy at the age of 10 went out and single-handedly tried to move that tree which of course was impossible. But other people seeing his actions said "we can help." And they did. Eventually the tree was moved. This is the power of one.

And then, years later, we talked about a girl in Africa who, when Melinda Gates was visiting her Village, snuck into the conference room against all admonitions from her mother and said "I need a teacher." Melinda Gates found her village in Africa, not just one teacher, but many teachers. This is the Power of One.

Today my story is about a professor at the University of Texas at Austin. At one of her "fun with chemistry" presentations someone in the front row yelled out "women can't be scientists."

When The March for Science was announced the very next day, she immediately purchased a plane ticket to Washington DC.

On the day of the march, she woke up to a giant rainstorm and worried that it would affect the turnout. Later she said I should've known that a little rain would not deter passionate scientists. Thousands of people gathered to promote the love of science. Not one person moved when the skies opened up and the rain poured down. They all stood in perfect unity marching toward a better future.

She commented that it was one of the most empowering moments of her life.

But here's the most important part: when she checked her phone she saw hundreds of voicemails from old friends, colleagues, and family members.

Here is her favorite one: "Hi Kate, it's Uncle Ivars, I just wanted to let you know that the reason we will be marching today in Grand Rapids is you. We are inspired by your actions in DC and we've got your back here in Michigan.

This is the power of one - how many people can be positively affected by the actions of each of you? Each of you here - this is just your beginning, you are just getting started.

Remember, silence is not always golden as we were sometimes taught; sometimes it is just plain yellow. Speak up and out. Stand up for others!

Let me close with this quote from Maya Angelou:

"We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make, which over time, add up to big differences that we can often not foresee!"

Your words and actions have the power to inspire others.

The power of one is your super power!!!

Hayley: Thank you, Susan. That was wonderful! The student chosen for this award will receive a \$100 scholarship award as well. The recipient of this award will be a student who has demonstrated the following: significant contributions to the community, humanitarian service to improve the welfare of humankind, an innovative approach to addressing community needs, an ability to lead, inspire, engage other students, and a legacy of positive change. This year's recipient truly demonstrates the qualities mentioned. They submit themselves to volunteering opportunities not only on the Topeka Collegiate campus but also in the community. This student exemplifies leadership while still remaining a team player. Their ability to seek out the good in each and every human and situation is a quality I admire. They are genuine, kind, and fun which attracts others to their spirit and encourages them to join in and help out! This year's recipient has left a legacy of positive change and I believe their legacy will follow them throughout life. On behalf of Susan H. Garlinghouse and Topeka Collegiate, it is my honor to present the Susan H. Garlinghouse Humanitarian Award to Josie L.