



## Graham McCulloch Memorial Bursary Winner

*"What does road safety mean to you?"*

Title: Life Is Fragile

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They say that life is fragile. One accident can shatter an entire family's world. One day a young boy is happily playing in his front yard, and the next moment he is not. This boy in particular was my uncle; he was only five at the time. It was a normal day outside, just like any other. On days like these my uncle would take to playing by himself out in the yard. Being a young energetic boy he was animatedly re-enacting some game with a ball when it rolled out onto the street. While going to retrieve it, he was hit by an impaired driver receiving fatal injuries. The bright future my grandparents had in mind for their only son was suddenly destroyed and so were their hearts. My aunt was just a baby when this happened and my mother was not even born yet. Neither of them got to ever know their brother but they grew up in the grieve-stricken world my uncle's absence left behind.

Even though this incident happened many years before I was born, I am not immune to the effects on my family. I see the pain in the eyes of my family when his name is mentioned and I see the careful way my mother handles the box of his toys she keeps hidden away. Memories of a brother she never knew. I see these things and it makes me sad because I know we are not the only family that has been affected by the tragedy of a motor-vehicle incident. It makes me sad because incidents like these and so many others could be prevented. But it also gives me hope because by sharing my story it might make someone think twice the next time they get in a car and prevent them from speeding or driving impaired. They might think of my uncle, as I often do, and choose to spare a life.

