

## **Equal Opportunity**

When our founding fathers created our country, they gave us independence and freed us from a sovereign ruler so that we had the right to vote for who governed our country. They also wrote a constitution to guide our country throughout the years and formed a democratic government, intending each citizen in our country to have equal rights. These are the stones that are the firm foundation that make our country the way it is today.

Even though we have faltered as a nation at different times, we still pull through to give others equal opportunities. For example, we gave equal rights to African-Americans through the Emancipation Proclamation and stopped segregation laws during the Civil Rights movement so that African-Americans could have a sufficient education. Also, women were given voting rights so that they could share their opinions and vote for who governed our country. These are examples of the progress our country has made towards true equal opportunity.

Even though we have improved, there is still more to do. For instance, we can give equal education opportunities to citizens of lower economic status so that they can have the right education to get better paying jobs. We can also work to respect others' religions, such as the Muslims. Ever since 9/11, the Muslim community has been suspected as terrorists. This is unfair because the personality of a few people from one large group does not determine the personality of the entire religious group.

Equal opportunity is giving everyone the same opportunities no matter how different they are. All in all, as a nation, we need to make decisions together, and no matter what, we have to keep moving forward to equal opportunity for everyone.

Grace Elizabeth Moran  
Rock Island, Illinois