

# Second Place



## My Best Friend

*by Laura Rhodes Lee, Radiation Protection Technology major*

My grandma is the strongest woman I have ever known, and is also my best friend. She is 77 years old and still works full time as a manager of a school lunch room. Her lunch room is one of the very few who still cooks homemade food. Most people in our town would like to eat lunch at her school.

She was widowed at a very early age and has worked very hard to take care of herself and family. She is the mother of four children and grandmother of eight children. Everyone I know calls her “Grandma Betty”. I once heard her say, “If God makes me cook in Heaven, I do not want to go.” She has cooked for a living the majority of her life.

I remember her letting me drive a lot at an early age. She also still maintains her swimming pool for me and my cousins to enjoy every summer. She used to take me roller skating, and could skate circles around me, usually backwards. She owned and operated her own restaurant and still managed to pick me up from school every day. I once begged her for some new tennis shoes to match my friends at school. She immediately took me to Spartanburg to get the new shoes, even though she most likely did not have the time or extra money to do so.

We go shopping together once every week, and I wear out long before she does. We truly enjoy spending time together. On Saturday’s, I work as a rural carrier with the United States Postal Service, and her house is on my route. When I get there she has my lunch ready, and we eat and talk about our day. We also decide what we will have for lunch on Sunday after church.

There is no one that does not love her when they meet her. She has always been so sweet to me and would give me anything she has. She never complains about anything in her life. I am lucky to have her. I hope to live up to her example throughout my life.