

## Ms. Christie Glover

by Delaney Oldham

Student - Middle Tennessee - 2nd place  
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As the 2010-2011 school year began, it started just like any other school year in the past. Little did I know I would get the opportunity to meet a new teacher that would make a lasting impression on my life. The 2011 eighth grade class would be the first in the history of Trousdale County to get the

opportunity to take keyboarding during the fourth block activity period. This is where I met the inspiring teacher that I

will talk about. Ms. Christie Glover was her name and she would come to the middle school every afternoon from the high school to teach the 8th grade during this block. After having Ms. Glover a couple of times I learned that she was a teacher I loved to talk to. I discovered that I could tell her anything and she would listen. It always seemed that when I talked to Ms. Glover, my day was brighter for some reason.



Dr. Dan Tollett presents a check for \$250 to Delaney Oldham

It was May 13, 2011, the last day of school for the year and everyone was going ballistic. My fourth block class couldn't come soon enough. Once again, I was expecting the same daily routine. I would go to Ms. Glover's room and have our little talk for an hour and a half and everything would be a little better. I was in lunch texting my brother to see what the plan was after school. I was just as excited as the rest of the kids about the summer that was about to begin. I love spending time with my friends and family. My brother had just turned sixteen and he was excited to be driving. After school he told me he was taking his two best friends to Wendys. I told him I was okay with that, but deep down inside I wanted him to come to school to pick me up.

The fourth block bell rang, but I wasn't feeling like myself. I walked to the lab room where I was supposed to be. I had a cold chill all day long. It was the last day of school. I was supposed to be happy but it was Friday the 13th. I put a fake smile on so people thought I was happy but the thought just kept running through my head what an unlucky day today is supposed to be. I told myself, "Delaney, stop thinking about it. It's just a date". How dumb could I be thinking about something that was so unimportant? At that moment I realized something wasn't right. I thought about Ms. Glover and wondered if she thought about me. Why didn't I go to her room? Was everything okay? That day Coach Cothron, my lab teacher, didn't make my class do anything since it was the last day of school. We also had orientation with our principal in the

gym. Putting on the smile worked until Coach Cothron told me I was leaving school early. I told him that he must be mistaken that out I wasn't leaving early. Feeling worried as ever, I told him I couldn't leave. I had to talk to Ms. Glover because I promised her I would see her today before we left school for the summer break.

Ms. Glover would always help me with my family problems and give me some pointers on what to expect from my parents since they were about to get divorced. She would also help me with all of the boyfriend drama I seemed to have at the time. There were numerous obstacles in my life, and she was always there for me with a kind, encouraging word or maybe just a fact of life I needed to hear. I had never before opened up to anyone like I seemed to open up to Ms. Glover. It was an amazing feeling I had on this last day of school. My heart told me to go to her room.

After arguing with my lab teacher for a few minutes, he finally sent me to the office, and then my mom pulled up to pick me up. I could tell she had been crying. Something inside of me told me I should ask what was wrong. My mom drove a little ways down the road when she told me my brother was in a car accident with his two best friends. That is the moment I totally lost control. My thoughts and feelings were overwhelming. I calmed down, opened my mom's car door and ran back to the middle school. I had to find Ms. Glover, but she was nowhere in sight. My heart had never beat so fast in my life. I couldn't find Ms. Glover anywhere. Finally, the office workers phoned a family friend to come pick me up.

When I got to my house, the news couldn't have been more real. I never got to say any last words or anything. I would give the world if only I could tell him how much I loved and care for my only brother. My brother and his friends passed away. Days upon days I cried thinking about what life could have been with them living and wondering why God had to take my brother and his friends. All I could think about was how awkward I had felt the entire day and how I never got to talk to Ms. Glover. Maybe things could have been different if I had just been able to talk to her as usual.

The whole summer was terrible. My parents got a divorce and my brother was gone. How much worse could it get? Then, before you knew it, it was time for the new school year to begin. I cried all morning, not wanting to go to school. My mom told me everything would be okay. I trusted her and went on to school. We had orientation in the auditorium and then went to our homeroom. Our homeroom teacher gave us our locker numbers and schedule. When I got my schedule and looked down my list of teachers, I was so very proud and excited to see "Glover-Keyboarding" on my class schedule. Words could not express the feeling I had. Ms. Glover and I could have many more talks and she could brighten my days for another year. Ms. Glover is the person I would go to when I was having a bad day in middle school and now she can help me make it through my first year of high school. Lord knows, I need the road to be as smooth as it can be.

To this day, she gives me loving advice. When I don't feel like holding my head up and fighting another day, she encourages me to be the best person I can be and to respect myself. Through the terrible trials of my life, I have learned to never take anything for granted and to be ready

for the ups and downs that life throws at me. I never know what is going to happen, so I live life

to the fullest. I am happy to say I have someone in my life like Ms. Glover that I can open up to and get guidance and inspiration from. She makes my life worth living each and every day.



Delaney Oldham and Christie Glover