

## Shaped But Not Yet Formed

As long as I can remember, I have lived in Wauwatosa and gone to Washington Elementary. I am nine years old and in fourth grade. I am the oldest brother in my family. My community and family have built me up and inspired me to make the person I am today.

Coming from a small family helps you do stuff with one of your parents like cooking. Cooking helps me express myself. For example, I became adventurous and creative with foods because I help make the dish and like it. I also like to bake with my mom, baking makes me feel empowered because it makes me feel like I can do a hard baking challenge and succeed. My younger brother always judges how good the dessert is.

Wauwatosa has a lot of good restaurants that serve nice food. There are so many, you can probably walk to one no matter where you live. I like that I can walk to restaurants here that you can't in other places. I have an interest in food and cooking because I have been trying new foods.

Five blocks away from my house there are these really cool mountain biking trails next to the Menominee River. These trails are fun to mountain bike on because I can explore the trees and river. Mountain biking is not only fun,

it is a way for me to adventure and care more for nature and for the earth.

My family goes on a lot of trips to historical monuments. One time we went to the Hermitage in Tennessee. The Hermitage is Andrew Jackson's house. After visiting it gave me an interest in history. I love taking books off the shelf and digging into them. Historical fiction and historical nonfiction books are my favorite.

I live really close to the public library. Every week we go to the library after school. Every time I run over to the historical fiction part of the library and find interesting books. When I saw my mom reading a lot of books, it inspired me to read longer books like her.

Another thing that shaped me as the person I am today is COVID-19 because it has taught me to appreciate my family more and what they do for me. COVID-19 made me realize that my parents do more for me than I expect. For example, when I was home a lot more from school, I realized how much my parents did for me, like doing laundry, vacuuming, cleaning, and making yummy food.

Washington Elementary has helped me learn to be responsible and respectful. The teachers make me feel cared for and I feel like I belong there. At school, I also

have a lot of good relationships with friends that care about me.

Out of all the ways that my community and family have shaped me, I know I am still growing and will have new opportunities. I am looking forward to learning more things about my community and myself.