

As I watch this little girl dance across the screen

she's about 5 or 6 in this tape

the camera zooms in and catches her beautiful smile and dark eyes

and for this split second I remember thinking this girl was so filled with love and joy

At this point in her life she never understood pain of any kind.

I sit there for a bit staring at the paused screen

all the sudden my grandmother asks me why I am watching home videos

the only answer I could give her was that I was searching for myself.

At some point in the years past

I had become a new person

losing myself in a series of tragic events that made up my life.

Now a teen, I have more understanding of the violent crimes committed against me.

The abuse was unbearable

attacking me from every aspect of my life.

There were times where the uphill battle seemed to be impossible.

There was no sign of hope that I would ever succeed.

But I realized that my past doesn't control,

my future.

My past doesn't define who I am today.

But I will take what I have experienced and turn it into something

That can be used to help bring awareness to more people.

My past has brought me to the point of what I want to do in my future.

I want to become a Child and Youth worker,

To help the suffering to gain the strength to carry on and get the help,

They much deserve and the justice for the violent things that were done to them.

I want to give the hope back into their lives.