

My Hero Assignment

My hero is Tania Van Norman. Tania is 37 years old. She has been a great special friend to me for almost a year now. My hero lives in an awesome small town called Webbwood with her husband Mike and her two beautiful children; Calvin and Chelsea- Michaela.

I admire Tania because she has helped me with things that no one else has been able to help me with. I also admire her because she helped me find my voice and encouraged me to speak out. Another reason why I admire Tania is because she will go and raise awareness for other persons to speak out.

Tania has two children and a husband. Her only son is eight years old and her only daughter is 5 years old. Her children are her everything. Tania is a graduated paramedic from Cambrian College. Her hobbies are spending time with her kids, going to her camp and watching the moose's and deer's walk along the side of the road. My hero has a challenge everyday. Her challenge is to stop sexual abuse.

In 2002, she started her own charity (Protect out Children, stop Sexual Abuse). She has over 48 000 victims in 45 communities. Starting the charity has been a dream of hers since she was 17 years old. Her friends, whom are all survivors, encouraged Tania to start her dream. Tania has three youth directors and thirteen directors.

"I never realized how much I put into this and how hard this is." Says Tania

She encourages victims to use their voices and to speak out. She also offers victims help and tells them that they are not alone.

Tania's personality is one of the best's personalities I've ever seen in my life. She is really caring and she speaks her own mind. At times she will act hilarious. She will do what she thinks and feels what's right for her.

Since I live with my hero, I've done many things with her. I guess I can describe the first time I met her. In May of 2005, my mom went to one of the charity's BBQ and told Tania my story. One week later, Tania came to see me. We went to a "Sharing Circle" in Cutler.

Tania influences me everyday in a positive way. She keeps me going no matter what. Also she believes in me. The person that I admire always makes me want to think in a positive way.

Tania has done a lot for me. She's encouraged me and helped me through stuff that is impossible for others to help me with. She has made me a survivor, not a victim of abuse. She is a true survivor herself. She is my hero because I don't know what I would be like today if she wasn't here.

If anyone needs to talk to Tania Van Norman, you may call her at (705) 869-6396 or email her at tania@secretspocssa.org. You may also check out our website <http://www.stopsexualabuse.org>