



**City of Gaithersburg CHARACTER COUNTS! Program
Adult Heroes in OUR Community Essay Contest Winner 2015**

As a student of St. Martins of Tours for the past 9 years, I have encountered many different teachers and leaders in the school. I have experienced teachers and principals come and go, and many have helped me grow academically and emotionally. Mrs. Helene Redmond has stood out for the past three years with amazing help and leadership to guide us into the right path. Not only is she an outstanding teacher, but she is there when you need a helping hand in any problem. Mrs. Redmond is the teacher that you go to for help at any time, and she is always there. She shows compassion to all of her students and cares for every single one of them. At first I was afraid of Mrs. Redmond because she was very strict and had a lot of deadlines. I thought I would never make it out alive because everything was so hard. Now, I am about to graduate her class. I accomplished so much with her help and her kind gestures. I wasn't the greatest student in the beginning, but when I spoke with Mrs. Redmond she told me what I needed to do in order to get to the high school I wanted to go to. To this day she is still so generous and outgoing to my fellow classmates and me. As Mrs. Redmond continues to prepare us for high school, she guides us to be better people for us and for God. Mrs. Redmond has changed the lives of the class of 2016 and I know that we will all be eternally grateful.

Layla Abudayeh – Grade 8
St. Martin of Tours School
Principal – Andrew Piotrowski
Teacher – Christina Kelly