

## **An Inspiring Woman**

By Zahra Davenport

The most inspiring woman in my life is my grandmother, Suzanne Armstrong. She lives in Chicago in the South Shore area. She has inspired me in many ways. She was a Chicago Public School teacher for many years. Even though she retired, she still works as a substitute teacher and helps students after school as a teacher in the South Shore Library. She retired because she wanted to, even though she was fully capable of working longer. If I had to guess, I would say she is in her forties, even though that is not possible.

I think the way my grandmother stays so youthful is because she is so active in her community. That is another reason why she inspires me. She is constantly planning things to do with her family. It is mainly my little cousin Qamara and me who accompany her. My grandmother participates in a garden club that turned a vacant parking lot into a garden. She frequently goes to festivals and parades. The Jazz Fest is one of her favorites.

Another reason my grandmother inspires me is because she is so independent. She is in the process of owning a restaurant and event center called The Quarry. She has wanted to have a restaurant for a long time. She came up with the theme and idea of The Quarry independently, with a little help from my mother. It will be a variety of healthy foods. It will be a family run business. She always says that anyone in the family will always have a job to go to.

My grandmother can be an inspiration for anyone. She is also extremely healthy. She goes to the YMCA in South Shore everyday to exercise. She motivates the people around her to be healthy and eat healthy foods. She can motivate anyone because she has such a positive attitude. She is always looking to the future. She can cheer anyone up about anything.

My grandmother is such an inspiration to me. She is active, independent, and cultural. She has done more than enough to be my inspiration. She gives back to her community, she has her own restaurant, and is a family orientated person. If I become half the person she is when I'm older, I will be a pretty great person.