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SHARON

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This is my fourth year teaching science to 7th-10th graders at Hodayot. I love what I do, and for me the students are like my own children. Everyone here is like a second family and Hodayot is a second home. This is the best school I could work in.

My students are an inspiration to me. They come from very challenging backgrounds. Their lives before Hodayot were so difficult, and they are only 14 and 15 years old. Sometimes I look at them, and I think about everything they have been through and everything they have overcome and are in the process of conquering. They inspire me and give me perspective on life.

This is my third year running a competitive drone program. My students develop and design their own drones and we compete in a national competition. Last year we earned second place! This year we are determined to take home first place. The students create their own design from scratch and take part in several exercises with the drones, like conducting electricity. The kids love it! They learn engineering and realize that the high-tech industry is not a far-

fetched dream—it is within their reach. Here they learn they can do anything they want and be anything they want in the future.

The first class of students that I taught is now in 11th grade, and I can see their transformation happening before my eyes. They have become independent adults. Their study habits have improved. They treat each other with kindness, and everyone loves to teach them.

My goal for my students is to instill faith in them that adults can be good to them and want to invest in them and see them succeed. Unfortunately, not every adult that these students have had in their lives has been a positive role model for them. I want them to know that there are good people in this world, and that someone here believes in them. I hug my students and do my best to raise their self-esteem, build their confidence, and demonstrate how much I want them to do well in school and in life.