



**HOLLY KRAMPITZ** is an eighth grader at Rocky River Middle School. She plays on the school volleyball team and loves writing and reading. She is also involved with her church youth group. She would love to teach elementary school or be an author.

From 1941-1945 Adolf Hitler and his regime killed millions of people in Europe simply because they were different. Hitler had a strong hate for people who were not of the Aryan race. Hitler had been denied success in his pursuit to be an artist when he was a teenager. After spending years in poverty, he decided to enlist in the army during World War I. Hitler blamed losing the war on the Jewish race. He rose to power with an ideology backed by his false conviction that the Bible instructed him to wage war on the Jews. He hated them enough to attempt to exterminate a whole race of men, women, and children. Hitler's hate was like a plague; it spread from person to person and soon enough a whole population was following in his footsteps.

When I first read about Anne Frank and her experience in the Holocaust, I was awestruck that one person (and his henchmen) could do so much to people just because of hate. Anne Frank had a perfectly normal life until the ideas of one man came and took it all away. It wasn't one army versus another army during the Holocaust, it was one army versus innocent people. Hate can go a long way and it simply isn't needed. If we can start comparing our similarities and stop focusing on our differences, the world would be a better place.

We can prevent things like the Holocaust and other historical hate acts from happening again. We need to work together to save our community. In our community we have a group called the Clergy Association. This gathering of priests and pastors meets monthly to discuss what is going on in their churches. While this is a great idea, the only problem is it only includes the Christian religion. Rocky River, as a city, is mostly made up of Christians, but also includes members of the Jewish, Buddhist, Muslim, and Hindu faith. My suggestion would be to invite representatives of all faith backgrounds as well. This could set an example to the churches that different races and religions can get along. This doesn't have to stop in Rocky River. We could start a similar organization in Cleveland. Also, if we give a day to celebrating everybody's differences, there would be a greater understanding of our unique backgrounds. People could dress like their culture or do a report on their family history or religion. This would inform people on what others believe and help them be less critical of people's differences. I feel that in order to work together as a community, nation or world will first involve appreciating our unique cultures, histories and religions. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools." Our job for our generation and future generations is to learn from history and to respect the differences of race, religion, and color.