

Hi, my name is Abel Hartgraves. I am 10 years old. I am a military kid. My mom is a Veteran and my dad is in the Army. He is about to retire after 23 years of service.

I would like to tell you a hero story. I may not be a hero, but I have learned what a great hero is by watching my dad.

During the holidays I help out at a toy give away at Ellington Field. This was the 5th year I remember helping, but my mom has pictures of me “helping” when I was a baby too. Before the event, I help gather toy donations and organize the toys for military families to “shop” for presents. This year there were a lot of families with lots of kids. I could tell 2 families in particular needed extra help. One mom had a hard time holding on to all of the toys for her 6 kids and also needed help picking out toys for her older kids. I stepped up without hesitation to help her. The box I followed her with was really heavy, but she was very grateful. She said thank you so many times and said she would not know what to get or how to get the items to her car without my help. As soon as I came back inside from helping her, another family with lots of kids needed help and I also took some bikes they picked out to their car.

This may have been a small gesture, but I hope my efforts helped another military family. I know being a military kid and family can be stressful at times. I am glad to help where I can. Watching my dad serve inspires me to be strong and help others.

