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From the hundreds of rhinestones, to the hours of driving, to the texts I get minutes before every performance, my parents are honestly the biggest blessing anyone could ever have.

Flash back to 2011. It's my first time competing, my first time doing a solo, and my first time traveling for dance. I was a nervous wreck. I still remember the feeling of my stomach doing flips inside me. Then my phone buzzed. It was a text from my dad that said, "Go out there, and get a little better than you were yesterday. Authorize yourself to be great, and dance for the love of it". I started to realize why I was even in that dressing room. Not only because I love the feeling I get when I dance, but also because my parents love me so much. Dance has never come easy. I've always had to work hard. I'm not naturally flexible, I'm really short, and I have scoliosis. I'm not complaining! I love who I am. But my parents have always seen past my flaws. They have always believed that I can do whatever I set my mind to, and because of their belief, I believe in myself too.

Every single costume I've ever had, my parents have paid for. Not only that but my mom hand glues dozens of rhinestones on each one, hems them, alters them, steams them, and some she's sewn the whole costume. Not only is my mom the costume master, but she also drives at least 2 hours every day to get my brother and I to dance and back home. She buys me pointe shoes. And I mean lots and lots of pointe shoes. And shhhh don't tell, but sometimes she sews the ribbons on for me! She does so much. But the thing that means the most is the endless love and support. Both of my parents work so hard at everything just so my brother and I can work towards our dreams. My parents are the most selfless people I know. Always thinking about my needs, my future, my goals and for that I am eternally grateful.

Not only are my parents huge supporters of me, but also my grandparents. They come to every competition, every show, and every

concert. If I want to go to a convention across the country and my parents can't go, they go with me. They do way more for me than they need to and I will never be able to express how thankful I am for them enough.

My parents and my grandparents are some of the most inspiring people I know. Not only have they helped me become the dancer I am today, but they have helped me become the person I am today. They have showed me what real love is, what genuine kindness is, and the importance of staying humble. I thank God for them constantly. I honestly don't know who or where I would be without these loving role models in my life. I think my parents should be presented with The Tribute To My Parents Award, because They are two of the most loving, accepting, supportive, beautiful people anyone will ever meet. Mom and Dad, I adore you to Jupiter and back don't ever forget how thankful I am for you and your beautiful giving souls.