

*Brooklyn Lamoureux*

*Age: 13*

*Parent: Stephanie Lamoureux*

*Dance Studio: Rokita Dance Center*

*Hello, my name is Brooklyn Lamoureux and I am 13 years old. I started dance when I was three and have learned so much in my ten years dancing. I feel it has made me a more confident and well-rounded person. I realize that the things in life you desire the most will come to you with hard work and determination. These past four years at dance have become especially important because I have been making my tribute to my mom. My mother was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2007. She fought a courageous battle with treatment and a desire to live life to the fullest. Even when she didn't feel good, she would always put on a happy face and attend my dance recitals and every competition. She believed in me and wanted to see me succeed and fulfill my dreams as a dancer. She encouraged me and supported me every step of the way. Then in 2012, after battling cancer for five years, she passed away. Losing your mom at the age of nine is unimaginable; I lost my role model, my best friend and my everything. Without dance I don't know how I could've kept going. Dance clears my mind and fills me with joy and passion like nothing else. Every time I'm up on stage doing what I love I feel her presence and know she is right there watching down and dancing with me. So, this weekend I would like to make my tribute to my mother up in heaven because I always dance for her.*