

## Artist Statement

My painting, titled “Hope”, represents all of my family members who have been affected by cancer. My great-grandpa passed away from lung cancer, my great-grandma passed away from leukemia, my mom was able to survive from cervical cancer, and my grandpa is battling brain cancer. The organs are represented in black and white to represent the different types of scans, and they are wrapped in the color of ribbon that signifies the type of cancer.

I’ve lost two family members to cancer, and I’m really lucky that my mother’s cancer was one that could be treated. I couldn’t imagine a world without my mom, and I’m very thankful that her cancer could be controlled and didn’t spread. However, we may not be so lucky with my grandpa, who is living with brain cancer. This is one of the worst forms of cancer, and there’s not much we can do about it except hope. He is on trials of different medicines, and some seem to help while others don’t. He has lost much of his memory and speech, and it’s difficult to understand what he’s trying to say. All we can do is hope for his recovery, even when it seems like there is not much to hope for. His battle is on the front of all of our minds, and it affects his mind most of all.

Not only do I have hope for my grandpa’s recovery, but I also have hope for a cure. I hope that someday there is a way to prevent and control all forms of cancer so that no more loved ones need to be lost. Cancer has taken a toll on my family, and I hope for a world where it won’t take a toll on anyone else’s. I believe it’s important to have hope, and I am able to have so much hope because of how lucky my mother was.

Kaylee Bliss