

## Be A Hero's Hero

Nov. 26, 2018

During my break, I had the opportunity to surf YouTube, and I found some of my favorite Saturday morning cartoons. My favorite was "Fat Albert" because it reminded me so much of growing up in Gilgal, Texas. We would spend hours playing in our clubhouse, running through the woods and pretending to be superheroes. I was always the Brown Hornet, which was the name of the superhero cartoon that Fat Albert and his friends watched during the show.

I would pretend to have the superpowers of the Brown Hornet. We would put on capes, which were actually old tablecloths or towels we took from my grandma's clothesline, and we would create make-believe spaceships to fly around on, which most of the time were small tree branches. We would have a great time pretending to fly and trying to save the world from the enemy. I remember wanting a hero to show up, solve the problem, pull the others together and save the day. **I wanted to bring people together, provide hope and help those in need.**

As time progressed, watching cartoons and playing superheroes became a little less cool, while arcades, Atari and other things began to take our time and attention. My friends and I eventually went our separate ways as we got older, but I believe that deep down inside, we all still wanted to have the superpowers like our heroes, and we wanted to save the world and make a positive impact with our life.

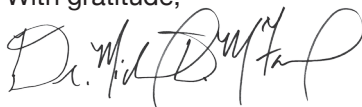
My desire to be a superhero was rekindled when I had adults in my life that became heroes to me. My heroes were my teacher, my coaches, my Sunday school teacher and my parents. **I was one of the fortunate ones who had a real-life hero after the cartoons ended.** Several of my friends did not have the same privilege. We had the same desires when we were kids, but not the same experiences as we got older.

Several of my friends did not make it, due to bad, life-changing decisions and their desire to be a hero could not sustain them. Three of us decided to become educators because our real-life heroes were educators, coaches and teachers. I wonder how many students in our schools today are looking at heroes like Black Panther and others wanting to be a hero? **I believe many want to make a positive difference with their lives and are waiting on a real-life hero to show up and show them how.**

As educators, I believe we all have an innate desire to save the world or at least have a significant impact on the lives of our students. **As educators and adults who serve for the benefit of children, we have an awesome opportunity to be a hero for the students we work for, those we live with, those we attend church with and those we see in our neighborhood.**

I am challenging each of you to recognize the awesome responsibility and be a hero for them. It is our responsibility to share hope and provide help. Speak life into our children and become a true hero and a merchant of hope. Maybe you will be the hero's hero and help them find their superpower.

With gratitude,



Mike McFarland

