



Photo by Devon Duke

## Esther Frost Standing Strong

Esther Frost is older than her years. Upon meeting Esther, one can immediately sense her confidence, her maturity, and her strength. A senior at Grace Christian High School, Esther deals with much more than your average high school student.

Last year, Esther's life completely changed; her mom was diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer. Esther lives her life knowing that her mother will eventually pass away from the illness. "The struggles I have faced over the past two years, especially over the past few months, have been terrifying, difficult. My mom, my best friend...has been taken away from me," Esther says. Yet she does not allow this tragedy to keep her down. In fact, she continues to help people in need while working towards graduation.

She has extensive community service experience. She has worked over 1,350 hours with the Municipalities Summer Playground Program, 550 hours with the Grace Christian School Kitchen, 160 hours with catering jobs and 35 hours working with CHIEF Ministries in Phoenix, Arizona, where her mother is currently undergoing chemotherapy.

Esther is an amazing young woman. You can tell there is a purpose behind everything she does. Being ½ Yup'ik, she embraces her culture as one the most enriching parts of her life. She states, "I am in love with my culture and my roots. I can see the differences in cultures...and it is fascinating." She plans on attending college and becoming either an elementary teacher or a counselor in ethnic relations, focusing on Alaska and Yup'ik Native Americans.

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the Anchorage Daily News, AT&T, and the University of Alaska**