



Aidan, 14

I met Aidan and his brother while they were helping serve dinner to a group of poor people in our city.

What have you been doing this week?

Skateboarding and hanging out* with my friends. It's spring break.* Me and my friends* walked to McDonald's.* I'm trying to get a job there right now. I dropped job applications at like six of them, everywhere.

Your dad is in Afghanistan. How do you feel about that?

I don't really like having him over there. I miss him a lot. I guess most people think it's special having a dad overseas, but it's not. It's really hard, and I don't get to see him a lot. When he comes home, we eat out* a lot. We spend money. We play Call of Duty a lot (that's a video game), my brother and my dad and me. We work out* together.

Do you worry about him?

All the time. I try to keep him in my prayers. I call him when I can and talk to him.

Why are you here helping feed homeless people today?

My mom didn't tell me about this until about 2:00 when she said, "We're going to go feed a bunch of people" and I was like,* "OK."

Is there anything that you would like to say to kids in other countries?

Hmm. Fulfill your dreams. Don't stop.

A Few Words

Hanging out: Sitting and talking to friends. This is informal English.

Spring break: A short vacation from school.

Me and my friends: At school, students are taught to say "my friends and I" but many young people say "me and my friends."

McDonald's: A famous group of fast-food restaurants.

Eat out: This means "eat in a restaurant."

Work out: Here this means "exercise, strengthen your muscles."

I was like: Young people often say "I was like" instead of "I said." It is informal and is used in speech, not writing.

Discussion Questions

1. Aidan enjoys activities with his dad when his dad is not in Afghanistan. What do you enjoy doing with your dad?
2. Aidan hopes that you will reach your dreams. What are your dreams for the future?