My backyard is a special place to me because every spring my parents and I plant vegetables and flowers. I have always liked gardening. The best thing about it is that it is a fun hobby and I think it's neat that you get to eat all of the vegetables and fruit that you grow. Also, you can make your front and back yard look nice with a little bit of work.

Just yesterday my parents and I went outside and planted elephant ears, lilies, hostas, and petunias. We had lava rocks in our flower bed, and we wanted mulch instead, so first we put on gloves, then, using our hands, we raked the rocks out until it was just dirt. It was really hard to get the lava rocks out; it took us about 6 hours. Next we planted the flowers. Elephant ears and lilies are bulbs with a root on the bottom; for the elephant ears we had to dig a six-inch hole and for the lilies we had to dig a two-inch hole. The hostas and the petunias were not seedlings, they were plants. It took a lot of work, but I think it was fun.

This year we planted lots of vegetable seeds, like habaneros, black krim tomatoes, yellow pear tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, and red and yellow bell peppers. We planted the seeds in February because it takes a long time to start plants from seed. You have to start the seeds early so that when spring comes the vegetables will be big enough to plant outside. They were not looking very good because it was really cloudy this winter and early spring, but over the last few weeks it has been sunny and now they are green and growing. They will be transplanted outside soon, and they will take root and grow quickly.

When I grow up I hope to continue these gardening traditions with my family.