Herry Garcia

       Over the past few years Eagle Valley's, "Wish Week", has become one of the most highly anticipated events of every school year. The community gathers themselves with one goal: to raise money for a diagnosed child and make their wish come true. The whole event is built around a culture of unity and care, everybody plays a part. This year our adviser, Hannah Shapiro, and team agreed that this event should be live streamed, making it the first live streamed event of its kind, which I would proudly pioneer. T-shirts, banners, word-of-mouth, excitement, and moving testimonies-- all of this was getting the rest of the community curious about what was going on at the local highschool. Livestreaming the event would give the rest of the community to be a part of the cause, allowing them to donate and enjoy the event. This to me sounded like an amazing opportunity, I needed this event to *feel* real. For audiences at home to be moved by the cheering crowds and have their hearts melted once the cameras cut back to Rehan (this year's child). I wanted to have the live video version form the same knot at the back of my throat as being there in person did. To achieve this level of live storytelling, I would have to get familiar with both the hardware and software for live-streaming, which was no problem since I had Rob Martin, the Dean of Isaacson School, guide me through it. It was really a privilege to get to do that kind of specified learning in highschool, usually the teacher is spread so thin that you only have so much time to learn something. It gave me a feel to what future internships might look like, observing and taking in as much as possible. One of the skills I pride myself in is learning quickly. I've taught myself programs before, but I never realized how much faster you can learn with someone else. That idea may seem trivial but I feel many of us underestimate what that can do for one's learning. After a short while, I got pretty comfortable with the program, it was finally time to play around. I'd figured out how to get live logos, banners, etc. to show up on screen; this gave it that feel that this event was a big deal. It felt "official". Now that I had the program down I was given a crew, the 25 pound cables weren't going to carry themselves, all of us making sure to use every minute we possibly could to set up cameras, cable, software and everything else. The pressure was on. Kim Mayorga acted as a producer for the event, knowing the entire schedule, she'd help me make sure the live editing was going well and helping guide the cameras to their next positions, through our headsets. The whole event came and went, all of us proud of the energy we were able to capture, the same kind we had felt throughout the entire week. Since this was the first time we did anything like this, there were bound to be small errors, but it was overall great. The next challenge would be to figure out how to get the best live audio, the more storytelling devices we can use live, the more the audience will reginate at home. This event, personally, gave me insight on myself as a leader. My younger self would want to micromanage things, this just wasn't possible in an event like this, that was really good for me. As a director I was able to achieve my vision by relying on our team trying to anticipate what can go wrong. There was no choice but to work in coordination, it was live afterall.