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“How have I made a difference in the lives of people around me?”

I find it difficult to answer “How I have made a difference in the lives of people around me.” I haven’t accomplished anything great or amazing. I haven’t started a foundation to help the sick or the poor. I haven’t discovered a cure for cancer. I haven’t climbed the highest mountain or won an Olympic medal. But in my own simple way, I am attempting to live my life with the intention of trying to make the world a better place for those around me.

I realize by my example, that I do have an impact on the behavior of my peers. Since reaching 8th grade, I know it is my responsibility to show my classmates and the younger students of the school what it means to be a good young Christian, and to have concern for others. I do this by using good manners. “Yes ma’am; no sir” to teachers and other adults and helping them where I can shows my gratitude and makes them feel respected. I show my care for other students by being patient with them, by not ignoring those who seem to be needing someone to talk to, by paying attention to those classmates who are shy, and making sure that nobody is being bullied. I feel my behavior rubs off on my peers, because when those around me notice how I act, they follow my example.

I hold the position of Secretary on the Student Council, and recently we raised close to \$500 for the earthquake victims in Haiti. As a member of Student Council, I try my hardest to make our school the best it can be. I can do this by trying to be the best person I can be. I hold myself accountable for achieving the best grades I can get by

studying when I'd rather be playing; doing projects for school in a timely fashion; paying attention in class; doing my homework; and going out of my way to earn extra credit.

This is all paying off because I now am able to help others who sometimes struggle to understand what we are currently learning without worrying about myself.

Leadership appears to come naturally to me. I am captain on our football and basketball teams and try hard to keep the teams physically and mentally "ripped". My strong work ethics come into play, which has a domino effect because my teammates then do the same, making our teams rock-ribbed.

At home, I am the second oldest of four boys, and as I mature, I am able to help out my parents with chores and baby-sitting. I try to help wherever I can, and to keep my attitude respectful and cheerful. Just as my older brother did and still does, I am trying hard to set a good example for my younger brothers.

By keeping a good sense of humor, and a smile on my face, by being respectful and helpful to others, by always doing my best, and accepting my responsibilities, I believe I am making a difference in the lives of people around me.