

Caroline Reel
St. Susanna

Smile for Others

One of my favorite quotes is “When life gives you lemons, make lemonade.” This saying always reminds me of little and mighty Aubrey Rose. She made the best of her life and was always know for having a smile. She was an inspiring young girl and has made a big impact on other’s lives and shows us how precious life really is. Aubrey made a difference and I am called to make a difference in someone’s life too.

My name is Caroline Reel and as a Catholic I feel called to serve others in many different ways. I volunteer, meet with clubs, and even smile! I know when I am serving others and when I am doing my job. I can hear it in people’s voices, see it on their faces, and can even find it in their eyes. Someone who is really grateful must feel you have done something great, at least to them anyway. “To the world you may be just one person, but to that one person you may just mean the world.” This is another one of my most inspiring quotes. Service is my way of thanking God for everything I have, and to show others God. Smiling really gives someone with a low spirit a contagious smile that they have to keep with them all day. It makes them feel warm inside and truly important, which they are. I think Aubrey knew that. My most cherished story through service was through the ARF. It all started when my fourth grade teacher had mentioned the American Girl Fashion Show to the girls in our class. As soon as I got home I couldn’t wait to find out more. My mom did research and was touched by Aubrey’s story, as was I. We both cried when we heard all the medical problems Aubrey had to face and what the Hollenkamp family went through alongside their daughter. I knew I had to be a part of this group to raise money for Aubrey’s cause. My mom took me to a fitting where I saw hundreds of girls destined to dress up as dolls. I thought that would be fun, but the real reason was for Aubrey. When I was getting measured I wasn’t wondering which doll I would best portray, but was reminded the reason for the show and how I would be helping. As I left, all I could think about was sweet little Aubrey.

I then found out I was selected and was going to be officially involved in the show. I was Kit Kittredge and was overjoyed! My blond hair and blue eyes helped me, but I think someone was looking out for me from above. I was destined to help a family with a huge heart raise money in a Christmas dress and a matching doll in my hand. When I was on stage all I could do was smile! I walked and turned to make sure I didn’t fall off the stage too, but was caught smiling from ear to ear. I knew I had done something great for Aubrey’s cause. It was 100% worth giving up a horse camp and I knew I had changed the world one smile at a time, just like Aubrey. The audience sure seemed to love the show and just being a part of it changed my life!

I am reminded of Aubrey all the time and am proud to have participated in her fundraiser. I worked with the ARF through the Ronald McDonald House this summer and am still looking for more ways to give through her foundation. I love to bring God to other people and the best way I can includes a smile with every act. Aubrey is a wonderful role model for all and reminds us that when life gives you lemons turn it into lemonade. I am so blessed to have heard of Aubrey. I am going to carry out her contagious smile through my life to make a difference in other’s lives; just like Aubrey, who made a difference in mine!

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