

Smile

By: Hayley Coldiron-Immaculate Heart of Mary-OH

Aubrey Rose had a very inspiring and memorable life. She affected many people with her strong spirit and loving smile. Her story touched me and made me smile too. At school, in my community, and in my home, I try to show my caring spirit and bring a smile to the face of others. It always warms my heart to see someone else smile because of something I did for them.

I have many opportunities to brighten others' day at school. In seventh grade, I helped a fellow classmate in Spanish by tutoring him during the class. Helping made me happy because I could use my talents to help others. My ability to help others led me to join Student Council, where I was a homeroom representative, updating students about fund raisers and school events. I enjoyed Student Council last year, so I joined again this year, becoming a co-treasurer. Student Council gave me opportunities for stewardship to help the needy by donating school supplies, coats, toys, hygiene items, sandwiches, and canned goods for the less fortunate, baking brownies for a bake sale to help increase funds for school, and cheering up an elderly parish couple by writing them a Valentine's Day card. I was pleased to receive a note from the couple thanking me for thinking of them during the holiday. In school I have reached out to not only students, but my community members, too.

My help can reach others all over the community. I grew my hair out so that I could donate eleven inches of my hair to "Locks of Love" to help make a wig for a child

with cancer. Every year I help my mom take tags from the parish 'Giving Tree' and pick out the gifts on the tags for the needy. Also around the holiday, I donated clothes and toys to a deprived single mother and her three kids that belong to my parish. I recently saw them at church and they were as ecstatic to see me as I was to see them. All my time spent to help was definitely worthwhile.

Every day at my house I have the gratifying capability of touching my family's and friends' lives. I recently found out one of my best friends is moving to a different state this summer and I have secretly been working on weekends to make her a scrapbook with special memories to look back on when she feels sad. Another friend I have has been chronically ill since she was born and is paraplegic. She has a feeding tube, has gone through multiple surgeries throughout her life, and many other health problems just like Aubrey. I keep in touch with her by e-mail and love having the chance to cheer her up. When she is unable to e-mail me back because she is in surgery I continue to pray for her. However, I am grateful when she can reply back so I can see how she is doing and let her know that I care. When I am not e-mailing her at home, I am helping my parents or grandmother who lives with me. My grandmother has had type one diabetes almost all her life and now is on home dialysis because her kidneys have failed. I always help by carrying her laundry and groceries downstairs for her. This always makes her happy. During the holidays I wrapped all her Christmas gifts for her. Once when she had a severely low blood sugar and was unable to help herself, I quickly gave her some sugar, kept her calm, and comforted her until her blood sugar came up to a safe level. I also

help my parents because I know they are very busy. Around the house I fold laundry and put it away, empty and fill the dishwasher, unload groceries, and dust, aside from my regular chores. I find enjoyment helping others without being asked and always feel satisfied when I am done.

I find Aubrey's story touching and inspiring. I don't think I could ever be as brave and cheerful as Aubrey, but I know that I can try my best to follow her example and continue to make people smile and touch their lives.