

## **Aubrey Rose Foundation Scholarship**

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When I first heard about this scholarship through school I didn't think I was worthy enough for the honor. When I got home my mom disagreed; she said this was perfect for me. I didn't understand. I hadn't done any thing that had changed anyone's life. I hadn't raised a bunch of money for some charity.

That weekend I went caroling with my Challenge group at the St. Joseph Home of Cincinnati (for disabled kids). When I saw their smiles I realized I didn't have to do something really major. Showing that you care and putting a smile on someone's face is one of the nicest things anyone could ever do. I finally realized that maybe mom was right.

I am in the Challenge club at my school. I joined Challenge, a Catholic girls club, because of their goals of service to the community. We are a religious girls group, and every year we do an apostolate project. Last year we collected clothes for the poor. This year, as I mentioned before, we went caroling at the St. Joseph Home. Along with the caroling we made name plates for all the children to put in their rooms. We decorated them with things they liked, such as sports, make up, and dog stickers.

Also, every year my mom and I take names off a "giving tree" at church during the Christmas season. We usually get two names and on each one there is their age and a few things they want. We go out to the store and try to make their Christmas special. This year we had a teenage girl and a three-year-old girl. I think they both had a great Christmas and it makes me feel good not just to receive presents but also to give them to the less fortunate. They really deserve it.

I do other kinds of service too. This year I worked Breakfast in Bethlehem. It's a breakfast served at my school cafeteria a few weeks before Christmas. Also I work at our school fall carnival, and the summer festival.

At school I'm a tutor. I tutor 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade. I help a boy get organized in the afternoon and tutor two in math. It is so much fun and I try to make it fun for them too. I make up games to play in the morning before classes start. I love math so it's nice to be able to use something I'm good at to help another person. My friend and I help the entire fourth grade class with plays they do for English class. We give them tips and help them read their scripts.

My cousin Josh is in the army and last year he was sent to Iraq. I wanted to do something for him and the other soldiers. I baked chocolate chip cookies and sent them, along with some Boy Scout popcorn we bought from my brother,

to Iraq. He sent a letter back saying how much everyone appreciated it. I was happy I could help the people who serve our country in such a big way.

My grandpa is 90 years old (almost 91). He has pretty bad eye sight and hearing. I help him in church, read him labels in the store, and peel potatoes for him (he makes delicious mashed potatoes!).

At the beginning of this experience I thought you had to be a saint to make a difference in the world but now I realize that the everyday things someone does can make an important difference to those around them, positive and negative (just think... what if everyone's actions were mostly positive!....it would change the world). I was already making a difference without even knowing it. I know now that just stopping to help someone in the hall pick up a book or pencil box can brighten their day, and that can ultimately make a huge difference.