

The Difference I've Made

By Kylee Siefke

I'm not sure really if I have changed the whole world. I do know that I have always tried to be a good person to everyone. Even when I don't like the person, I still try to do the right thing. No, I haven't found a cure for cancer or a way to end world hunger and everything else that goes on in this big world we live in. I would love to stop everything bad that happens in the world but unfortunately I can't, but I always try.

Someone's life I have always tried to help is my aunt's. She has 5 daughters, a pair of twins who will be a year old in February, a 2 year old, a 5 year old, and an 11 year old. I baby-sit the girls whenever she needs me even if I don't get paid. I actually feel sometimes like they are my own kids or my sisters. I am also always trying to set a good example for the girls by using good manners and teaching them how to do things.

For my friends, I'm not sure if I have changed anything in their lives but I try to be the best friend I can be. I stay by their side no matter what happens and I help them get through whatever they are going through. Whenever they ask me for some help, I always help them out, whether its advice or help with

homework. I have been friends with a lot of the same people since I was small. Which I think means we have been good for each other.

Another person who I think I have helped is my little brother, Ben. My grandfather is dying, so my mom has been busy taking care of him. My dad is at work, so I play the role of mom. I am always there for Ben when he needs me. I tell Ben about a lot of things in my life and he tells me about stuff in his life. Even though sometimes Ben doesn't like it when I play "mom" we still like each other.

I do know one thing I do each year that helps a lot of people. Each year since 2005, my family and I walk in The Mercy Heart Mini Marathon. We walk to raise money for those who have heart problems. We started this back in 2005. That was a rough year for us.

My cousin, Keith, who suffered from cardiomyopathy, died in an automobile accident. Two days later, the doctors told us that his younger brother, Kurt needed a heart transplant. Kurt received a new heart on May 5th, 2005. We have been walking for them ever year since and are walking in it this year as well. No, I don't really know the people I help but I know how important heart research is. Without it, my cousin would have died at 20 years old, and even though he has a new heart, he faces a lot of challenges.

This year on my own I want to raise \$100 for the walk to help all those who need it. I want to try and have my friends do it along with me. I think it is important cause and it affects a lot of people.

So I guess in the end I have helped people around me. I always try to smile and cheer people up. I look at the bright side of things even in at the worst times. I might have helped more people without even realizing it. No, I haven't really done anything heroic but I think just trying to be the best person you can be is making a difference