

LAUREN ULMER

ST. ANTONINUS

One of the best things a person can do in this world is put a smile on someone's face. It is my choice to try to do that every day. Whether it is at school, a family party, or even just walking down the street, I never fail to give a smile or a wave. Sometimes when people are down, all you can do is shed your own inner light on them and offer comfort and support. I have definitely been a person who always gives a positive attitude and nice words to friends, family, teachers and even strangers. When it comes down to it, I really like seeing others around me in good spirits.

Throughout my individual growth, I have worked to increase my level of caring by volunteering to make my school, parish and community a better place. At school, I am a member of our Student Council and have been involved in numerous volunteer activities. I am also a Girl Scout and have completed activities to receive the Marian Award. At St. Antoninus Church, I am an Altar Server and Eucharistic Minister. In the community, I have been a regular volunteer at Pregnancy Center West, which is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide positive alternatives to abortion. In addition, I have helped with the Annual Luncheon at The Farm, the Baby Bottle Campaign in the local churches, and the Lottery For Life fundraiser. The hours of service I have given help to keep the Center doors open and provide the opportunity for mothers to choose the "gift of life." While these experiences have enabled me to use my talents and gifts to service others, they have also assisted in my personal development and taught me that the

contributions of a student can make a significant difference. The multitude of opportunities to learn and volunteer has helped to shape who I am today.

Just like Aubrey Rose, I try my best to keep others focused on the positive things and the wonderful life we are all given; no matter how long or short our time on Earth. On sport teams, I give encouragement. In school, I give smiles and assurance, and with my family, I give hugs and kisses. Knowing I can make someone's day causes a powerful feeling in my heart. I feel special that I have the qualities to make this world a better place.

If I had the honor of winning this scholarship, I would recognize it in the highest way possible. Each and every day I will commit to instilling in people the light and happiness Aubrey Rose gave to others. I will continue to put a smile on the face of the people I see and show them the good things in life, because each day is a precious gift to cherish and celebrate our lives.