

Just like Aubrey, I was very sick when I was little. At the age of twenty-two months, I had trachitis and I wasn't doing very well. My mom and dad were so scared and they prayed to God for me.

By hearing my mom tell me stories about this experience it helps me to realize how special it is to care for and love others. By caring for and loving others, we touch the hearts of people we know and those we meet, just as I have been touched by others. Because of this I strive to touch the lives of many people who come into my life.

As a baby, my mom and I were chosen to be the Right to Life "Love Them Both" poster baby and mom. It was only recently that I have realized how this has had such an impact on other people's lives. I learned this through a speaker that came to my school. He discussed the issue of chastity and the unborn baby's right to life. I told him that I was the baby on the bumper sticker for Right to Life. He, then, told us a story about a young girl who was on her way to get an abortion. During the ride to the clinic she noticed the bumper sticker. Because of the message of the sticker she decided not to go through with the abortion and chose life for her unborn child. I believe it was God's intervention through me that saved the child! I hope to become involved in the Pro-Life group when I go to high school.

Another way I have affected the lives of those around me was through an opportunity I had to volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House. This was a very meaningful experience not only for those I served, but also for me. When I was in the hospital others made me feel better by bringing me cards and Christmas gifts. The volunteers made my stay at the hospital more comfortable through their love and care. I thought about how happy that made me and how much others cared about me getting better. It made me want to give back to the community and help other sick kids. I wanted to show them how good it feels to know that other people really do appreciate the things that I do for them. When I saw the smiles on some of the kids' faces, it really did pay off for all the hard work I tried to do for them. I hope to go back again to help the kids have a better stay, just like people did for me when I was sick. I believe that through this volunteer activity I helped the children feel a little better during their stay.

Another activity I was involved in that touched the lives of others was volunteering at Safety Village during the summer. My job was to teach the children how to be safe and what to do during an emergency. I spent time with the children teaching them about the negative affects of drug abuse, first aid, and traffic and swimming safety and other important lessons. I was a positive role model to them. Hopefully they will remember the important skills they learned and they will be confident if they ever need to rely on those skills.

It is easy to see how these special activities that I have participated in can affect the lives of those I have touched. The smiles we give to each other, fun shared including everyone, being there to help others who might be sad, helping with homework, and just listening can touch a heart each day and are equally if not more important. One of my favorite movies is "Pay It Forward". I hope by my actions each day I can affect someone else to do something nice for someone else so that the kindness continues on and on.