

Aubrey Rose Foundation Scholarship

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Many of us go through our lives never knowing the effect our words and actions have on others. We go about our busy lives never pausing to reflect how a smile or frown can change another person's day. Sometimes we think in order to change a life it has to be a big thing, or earth shattering. In fact, when I was thinking about what to write for this essay, I wondered, "What have I done that's so special? Sure I've done some service projects, like different Ambassador's Projects at school, and I've recently served breakfast at Our Daily Bread, but how has this made a difference in somebody's life?" After a while I realized that it's not always the big things that count, but the small things you do every day.

Every day I try to be friendly and pleasant to everyone. I try to always have a smile on my face and say nice things, even to the people who generally aren't pleasant. I try to be just as friendly and helpful as I can so I can live like a Christian. This has been a personal goal for my eighth grade year. Sometimes it's been hard, especially when people have been nasty to me. When my friends are blue I try to cheer them up, or think of positive things for them.

At home, I'm my family's little comedian. There are a lot of stresses at home, what with the cost of medications and doctor visits. Why so much? Well, my brothers and I have a genetic kidney disease called Alport's Syndrome. Among other things, it means my brothers will all need transplants eventually. (One already has had one.) So, I try to keep their spirits up by making them laugh. The night before my oldest brother's

transplant, he (and the rest of the family) was feeling miserable, I felt badly for him. So I started joking around and eventually got him laughing. (I'm the only one who can really make him laugh still!) I never thought of that as making a difference, but years later, my parents told me that I broke the tension in a very positive way. Little did I know...

So every day, I try to have a positive effect on people near me. This scholarship would be very helpful to my family, especially my parents. To paraphrase St. Therese, and her "Little Ways", I think that the small acts of love can have the greatest effect.