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I do a lot of volunteer work in different places. I honestly think this is a huge way of helping people in their daily lives. I volunteer at an animal shelter. Yes, it is for the dogs of course, but employees have stressful days from taking care of the animals all day. I go in and just calm the dogs down, take them for walks, clean the cages, mop the floors, and fill the food bowls. This takes some of the pressure off the employees. When people come in to adopt a dog I can leash the dog and talk to the prospective family because I know each different dogs personality. The people working there just sit back and relax, taking over when its time for the adoption. Seeing the smile on the face of a new family taking home their new pet lifts my day as well as their.

My mom owns a preschool that teaches 3 to 5 year olds. I am crazy over the little guys. I volunteer at the school to clean the toys and the classroom. At the end of the month, I help change the classroom to get ready for the next month. I spend time in the classroom working with the kids with crafts, reading, and worksheets. I love to treat the children as my own brother or sister. I help them with anything they ask. Working there I'm sure takes a lot of patience. Sometimes you just run out. That's where I come in and try to help my mom.

Our neighbor is an elderly man who lost his wife two years ago. His family lives out of town, so we're all he has. I love to spend time with him just listening to friendly conversation and talking about his day. I help him out any way I can by cutting the grass, weeding flowerbeds, gardening his garden, taking his paper to his porch each morning, and just being there when he needs something. He has commented that he would not be able to stay in his home without the help.

I am not what you would call a neat freak, but I love it when the house is clean. We always have a lot of visitors and I love when they comment on our home. I always do my chores, sometimes with arguing, but hey, I'm a kid, its what we do. But I still get my work that needs to be done completed. I'm learning to be responsible and work together with my family.

Everyone has a bad day at school or work. That's why when ever I'm at school, all I have to do to change someone's day is just smile, hold a door, or ask them how their day is going. It may not seem like much, but when you're the person having a bad day, and you come along a kid like me, doing simple things, it really turns your day around. It brightens your day. Eventually you just have to smile and be happy. Just doing little things like that makes the biggest impacts on people's everyday life.

Thank you for taking the time to read through my story on how I feel I make a difference in peoples lives. Everything I do is a small step, but small steps lead to big smiles!