

## **Aubrey Rose Hollenkamp Scholarship Essay**

**By: Ben Klayer**

I know many people within my family, friends, and community who have made an impact on my life, so I try to give a little back and help the people in my life. I participate in many helpful extra-curricular activities including, St. William's Student Council, the Children's Choir, and a local paper route. When I help someone, I love the satisfaction of knowing that the person I did something for truly appreciates my actions.

Since the fourth grade, I have been a member of our school's Student Council. I was looking to gain some personal experiences of helping people and stepping up in the community. Since then, I have done many things to help the community, including raking leaves, singing Christmas Carols, and going to a certain Nursing Home numerous times. Every time we walk into that building, we are greeted with many smiles. The people in the Nursing Home love it when we visit them. Usually, we play games, as we did this one particular day when I realized that even elders might have the same interests as a kid. I believe we were playing Bingo on this particular visit. When my 'partner' won, I walked up to get her a prize because she was physically unable to. When I returned, her eyes lit up, and I knew she loved her prize. I don't remember what the item was, probably a holiday decoration to hang in her room. Anyways, we had fun the rest of the day, and talked about random things, including things about our school and what sports we played. As a member of the Student Council, I love working hard to please people and help the community.

Also, I participate in the Children's Choir. We sing at Friday Masses, Children's Masses, and other performances around the community. Just last year, we went to Winton Woods Park to perform for some of the people who worked at the park. I wasn't required to go, but I came with the choir to sing. The choir crammed into a tiny room, also occupied by twenty or so workers. We sang a collection of songs, and I could tell the people loved it. I personally knew one of the workers who attended that performance, and she said she really enjoyed it. I joined St. William's Children's Choir to fill people's minds with beautiful music, and to possibly brighten up their day by simply singing.

Finally, I acquired a paper route about three years ago. My fourth grade teacher always said that we could do a simple deed to brighten up someone's day by moving their newspaper from their lawn to their doorstep. Price Hill's current paper route courier certainly did not do that, as every Wednesday I would have to walk out into the lawn to retrieve the Price Hill Press. When a route opened up, I immediately snatched it, looking not only for extra money, but to help around the community. Every single Wednesday from then on, I have always tried to put the paper right on every customer's doorstep. If I couldn't because of a porch repair or a vicious dog chained up on the porch, I put the paper in the next most accessible place. There was one certain customer who said he appreciated how I put the paper right in front of his door. This was one of the first few months that I had been delivering the paper to him. As I was walking around collecting money for that month, I stopped at his house. He answered the door and I told him what I was doing. He smiled and reached into his pocket. As he was searching his wallet, he told me how much he appreciated my willingness to put the paper right in front of his door. I walked away happy not because of the money I just received, but because I knew that my common courtesy helped someone.

As an active person in my community, I am constantly brightening people's lives. I was taught and raised to respect people and help them out, so I try to do that in my everyday life. I plan to actively make people happy, and try to make the world a better place to be.