

## EMILY DAVIS ST. JUDE SCHOOL

I hear these incredible stories about things that ordinary people have done to change someone's life. And I look back on my life and think, I haven't done anything that helpful for anyone. Why have I not done something that helpful to change someone else's life. And then I realize that maybe I have, maybe I have changed someone's life with just a smile in the hall or wave when I saw someone I knew. I just didn't realize the effect it had on that person's life.

There is this one specific time I remember. My mom, brother and I were coming back from Target. It was in the middle of winter and was below freezing. I didn't even notice the couple standing at the crosswalk holding a sign that said, "Homeless, lost job, have nothing. Thank You." My brother was the first one to point it out. Normally when we see people holding signs, I just assume that they want the money to buy drugs or alcohol. But somehow this time was different. The look on their faces was unforgettable. I couldn't help it, but I just started to cry. And I thought to myself, this person really needs help. I didn't notice but my mom was crying to. She handed me some money and told me to give it to the people. I rolled down the window and the girl came and took the money out of my hand. She looked me right in the eye, and said, "God bless you, good Christians." I just nodded and we drove away. I will probably never forget those five words she said to me.

I have a friend and in the sixth grade his house caught on fire, and completely burnt down. The fire even killed his dogs. I can remember giving money I had from the money I got from watching my brother. My dad and a couple of the people at our parish were the ones collecting the money. I handed my dad the money. He started to hand me the money back and said, "You don't have to, I already have." I pushed the money back in his hands and said, "I know, I want to." Donating that money made me feel like I did something really nice for someone and made me feel really good.

I went to a birthday party for one of my friends. We had the best time ever. But in the morning my friend received the news that her grandfather had passed away in his sleep. Instantly her eyes filled up with tears and she ran out of the room. Everyone from her party were still all there, and no one knew what to do. After a little while some of the other girls parents showed up and picked their girls up. My friend, Emily and I were the last ones to get picked up. We went downstairs to find her curled up on the couch crying her eyes out. I didn't know what to do. I wanted to say something that would help her. But I knew that nothing I said would take the pain away. So instead I go sit on the couch next to her, put my arms around her and let her lean on my shoulder and cry. Her mom told my mom the next day that me just being there and letting her lean on my shoulder and cry really helped her. Even though I didn't say anything, just letting her know that I was there made her feel a lot better.

My relative Gina Brown, was in a car accident. She has 3 little kids and the oldest is eleven. The car wreck had her in a coma for a very long time, and she is still not fully recovered and the car wreck was about a year ago. This really made me think about how precious life really is. And how quickly it can be taken from you. And I took a step back from my own little world and looked at all of the things people are doing to make life easier for her family. All of the fundraisers and other things they did, have really helped the family. And I have always contributed to fundraisers that we have had for people at school, or people from our parish, or even just someone I know don't know.

My dad has always been a very giving person. He is very selfless and puts others before himself. I look up to my dad and try to live my life like he does. Even if it is the littlest thing my dad does it no matter what the cost. And I want to do that same thing. To try my hardest to even help the littlest cause or even the biggest one.

When my friends or someone wants some help or even someone to talk to, they all know that I am right there, no matter what. People tell me that I have a way of lifting up peoples spirits, by making

them laugh or just making them smile. And I am very thankful for that, because it makes me feel good that I can help at least one person out, even if that doesn't change the world.

When I found out the prompt for this scholarship essay, I right away tried to think of something huge that I did to help someone or change someone's life. But the little things can have that much of an impact on someone as the big things. My mom has always told me to say hi and wave to somebody if I know them, because that might be the last time I see that person. I always have tried to say hi to the people I know, because they might really need someone to smile at them. When I have a bad day, the one thing that can cheer me up is a smile from one of my friends or just anyone. Or just someone letting me know that they care. I have always tried and will always continue to try to do the same for someone, and hopefully by doing this I will help make the world a better place.

I always try to find the good in people. Something that I do all of the time is I don't judge someone by the way they look or talk. I include the people who are different or who aren't the most popular kids in school. Because no one deserves to be treated like an outsider. I guess I have always had a soft spot for the people who aren't popular. Which I think is a very good quality I have. I stick up for the kids who get made fun of, because at school whenever we have the bullying presentation I see the effects it can have on a young person's life. And I never want anyone to feel like they don't have a friend in this world. Someone told me that he didn't have any friends at school and that everyone treated him like there was something wrong with him. That hit me really hard. I just wanted to help him out and tell him that everything is going to be okay. But it really wasn't that easy. Since then I have stuck up for people when others are making them feel less important than they really are.

Even though I haven't done something so incredible like you hear about on the news, I think that the little things I have done have really contributed to making this world we all live in a better and easier place to live. And hopefully I will continue to try to make this world better for everyone.