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OUR LADY OF VICTORY SCHOOL

Hi! My name is Emily Engelhardt and I attend Our Lady of Victory School. Over the years, I have learned many things about life and, hopefully, have left an impact on many people. Every day I strive to do my best in helping others. Even though I am not a major star, I try to take small steps in helping the community. Small steps can really add up to a big help.

One thing I have learned throughout my life is that life is short. I know not to take people for granted because you never know what can happen to them. I have experienced this a couple of times throughout my life. My grandpa and my uncle both died unexpectedly at young ages. This just goes to show that we should all be thankful for what we have and treat everybody with a good attitude. These were very depressing times, but we all go through tough times in our life and should try to learn from them. This has had a big impact on my life, but I knew that I would accept what had happened and go on with life.

This year, as an eighth grader, I am a leader at our school. This is also very important. I know that all of the younger kids look up to us. I know that we have to be a good example for them. Being a good role model is vital. To set a good example, I think it is good to show kindness, believe in your faith, be mature, and show that you really care. All of us should also treat others the way we would like to be treated. If we do this, it really shows that we care about others and know that it is a very essential key in making an impact on somebody's life. Even this small little task can really show a person how much you care about them. I am also a student council leader so being a good example is a responsibility of mine. I know that being the oldest in the school is very rewarding and we all have to show that we are ready to move on to high school.

This year I have also been involved in many service projects. This is very vital to the community. We all have to step up and take a part in assisting others who are in need. I have done service activities such as visiting the Ronald McDonald house, going down to Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, volunteering to help package cookies, cutting Box Tops for school, and doing work around the house. At the Ronald McDonald house I helped prepare food for the children and their parents who were currently at Children's Hospital. By visiting Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen I really learned that I should be thankful for what I have. All of the people down there had just about nothing and enjoyed whatever they had. The packaging cookies project was to help benefit the Holy Family Food Pantry. We made and packaged cookies. I cut and organized Box Tops to assist our school. For one cardboard Box Top we earned ten cents to benefit our school. I try my hardest to assist around the house. To do this task I usually help my siblings and my parents. For example, I babysit my brother and sisters and help them with their homework when my parents are not available.

Another thing I try to take part in every day is to make people happy when it looks like they are down. Everybody has bad days, but I try to give people a bright smile and show that I really care. Even if I don't know somebody well I try to give them a grin and cheer them up.

After writing this essay, I have thought a lot about how helping others can have a big impact on their lives. I really appreciate this great opportunity for me.