

Melina Artmayer

St. Teresa of Avila School

My name is Melina Artmayer. I am in the eighth grade at St. Teresa of Avila School. Next year, I will be attending Mother of Mercy High School.

In my everyday life, I try to be thoughtful and considerate towards others. I try to always be there for friends when they need help. I am encouraging toward my teammates on the soccer field and on the basketball court. Each and every day I strive to be the best I can be.

At school, I am always willing to lend a hand to my classmates if they are struggling with school work. I help the secretaries in the office during lunch recess.

At my Church, I have worked each year with the young children at our Christmas Winter Wonderland and Vacation Bible School. In Bible School, it was especially fun to work with the preschoolers. Some of them felt a little scared at first, but I did what I could to make them feel safe and have a fun week. One of the really cool things I like to do for our Church also is to decorate it for the Christmas and Easter seasons. It is so neat to see the church come to life with the beautiful flowers and lights. I know the beauty of the church will be enjoyed by all the parishioners. When we are working, our pastor always comes in to see how we are doing. There is always a big smile on his face because I know that he enjoys seeing all of us work together to help make the Church look good for these holy seasons.

In the summer, my family and I went on a service trip to West Virginia where we stayed at a place called Bethlehem Farm. We helped on the farm and also went to work sites each day helping the rural poor of the area. We did jobs like painting, roofing and building wooden porches and railings. The most inspirational job I worked on was to help build a home for a man named Johnny. Johnny had lost his home because he had to have surgery and he had no insurance. All he had left was a garage, so we built him an apartment in one half of the garage while he had a car detailing business in the other half. Each day we were there Johnny stopped by to see how things were going. This man had a hard life but he was so thankful for what everyone was doing for him. I got a lot of joy in helping Johnny and with this service I always had a smile on my face and after the apartment was built there was even a bigger smile on Johnny's.

Over the past year, my grandparents have had some health problems. Just by doing small jobs for them like raking leaves or dusting their furniture around the house, it meant a lot to them. During Thanksgiving break, my siblings and I went to their house and decorated their Christmas tree. It was fun to do and it made them really happy, plus I enjoyed spending time with them.

I haven't done any big things to really make an impact on people's lives, but I feel like these little things I've done have made a difference. I know that Aubrey was a special little girl who touched the lives of those who knew her and of those, like me, who have only heard her inspirational story. I will always do my best for other people and always with a smile on my face just like Aubrey. Thank you for considering me for this scholarship!