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As you go through life, God hands you many opportunities to make an imprint on others around you. Some stop to make that imprint, while others just let the opportunity pass by. In my life, I have strived to take as many opportunities as I can just to see that smile of thanks flash across a grateful face.

Every since I was little, I have always been involved with hospital activities. When my sister and I were little, we would push around the patients in their wheelchairs and talk to them. Sometimes, we would even paint their nails. I remember an old, elderly, man named Mr. Parks. My family and I cared for him in his final year. At the time, I was playing piano. He always loved when I would play. Sometimes, I would go to the nursing home with my mother to play for some of the patients.

Even when his life ended, I didn't stop there. When I finally gave up piano, I started to dance. Every year my dance team would put on a recital and our own version of 'The Nutcracker'. Every time we had one, we would perform half of it at a nursing home and bring treats afterwards. Even at my age, I still go with a friend to a nursing home to help out. Sometimes, I would do anything just to see that smile.

A couple of Christmas' ago, my family went down to the Matthew 25 Ministry to sort clothes by sizes to send them to helpless people in Mexico. At my school's toy drive we host every year, I volunteered to help drive them to Over-the-Rhine so that families that couldn't afford Christmas could come in and pay a dollar to pick a couple toys out for their families. Another time this year, I volunteered to help wrap gifts for children and

families. One time, I went with a friend to go repaint an orphanage house for boys. We spent all day taking down wall paper and painting the house. When we first got there, they were all eating breakfast together. We all took a little peek and noticed that all of the boys were smiling and laughing. It made me realize that even though they have nothing, they are still grateful for what God has given them. I felt horrible because sometimes I take things for granted and seeing how lucky I am to have a family that loves and supports me. It made me determined for the rest of the day! When my sister was in high school, she participated in a program where volunteers could go clean up torn-up schools. We went and cleaned out the classrooms and hallways and painted some classrooms. This helped a lot because the schools couldn't afford to pay for professional work or they may have had to close.

Recently, my mom had surgery. When she was in the hospital and recovery, I had to keep track and clean the house. I looked after everyone and tried to help keep things running smoothly, while my mom couldn't. Just for three days, I had to do all of this. I had to stop and think about how she must feel! She does this for a living and never complains about it. If I can help out for three days, then why am I complaining? When she got out of the hospital, and was back home, she told me that she was proud of me. I had never felt so special and important in my life.

A long time ago, my grandpa died. Ever since then, I have tried to help visit my grandma as much as I can. I like visiting with her because it brings both of us so much happiness and joy. I always like visiting because her days are slipping away, and there isn't much time left. She has taught me so much throughout my lifetime. No matter what life throws at her, she always has a smile on her face. She is always grateful for what she

has, and never takes anything for granted. I hope that I have such a happy and long life as she has.

There isn't a day that goes by where I don't think of how I can make an impact on not only people's lives, but throughout the world. Everyone always talks about how they want to, but nobody actually does it. Having made imprints on others around me has brought such happiness to my life. I feel like God has sent me to do great works to others. I hope to live this way the rest of my life. I hope every good work I do makes people remember me and makes an impact on them. I pray others follow in my footsteps. After all, I think there is a little bit of Aubrey in us all.

By: Nora Molinaro

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