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Everybody has those moments in their life when they say to themselves, "I want to make a difference in the world." Then we always ask "how do I do that?" I think making a difference in the world isn't always about giving gifts to the world. I think it's about giving actions to the world. There are so many ways to make a difference and I think I have done many things. I am going to make the sacrament of confirmation this year and I have done many services to prepare for it. One of my favorite services was the Christmas cookie packaging that I did.

For the service activity I baked four dozen cookies and took them to someone's house where I helped package a lot of cookies. We had over 1,000 cookies. We packaged them and put a pretty Christmas ribbon on them. They were sent to a nursing home, so those there would have a delicious Christmas treat during the Christmas season. Something special that I did while I was there was that I packaged a special box of cookies for my friend who recently lost her grandma. Even though, I didn't buy her something expensive, she really appreciated it. That's the kind of things I love doing. I love making people happy and I love seeing people smile. I really think I made a difference in their life, just by showing them that I care.

One of my favorite activities I have ever done was an ambassadors' program I participated in. I went with a group to Toys R Us and we went shopping for Christmas presents for little kids. We each got \$100 dollars to spend. I bought so many things to give to the little kids. We were told that these presents were all they were getting for Christmas. It really makes you appreciate all that you have. I will never forget that activity because when I walked out of that store I felt amazing. I felt like I really made a difference. Those kids were now going to have presents under their tree.

This year, I am an eighth grader at Our Lady of Victory and I now have a huge responsibility. I am a leader of the school. It's my job to set an example for the rest of my school. I have to show them how we should be acting at a catholic school. I remember my first day at Victory as a first grader. I looked up to the eighth graders for everything and I couldn't wait until it was my turn. Now it is my turn and it's my job to set the example that the previous eighth graders set for us. I hope I make a difference in their life and make them excited about being eighth graders.

Like Aubrey I always smile. Whenever somebody is sad I always put a smile on their face. Sometimes I tell them a funny joke or sometimes I will just act silly until they laugh. I hate seeing people sad about anything. I think Aubrey is an inspiration. She went through so much in her short life and yet she lived every day with a smile on her face.

Everyday goes by in my life and I want to make changes. After hearing Aubrey's story it just makes me want to go out right now and make a difference. I think if everybody has a little Aubrey in them then this world would be a much better place. She taught me that no matter what happens in your life you have to appreciate what you have. Even if your life is going really bad you should smile because you are making a difference in the world just by being here.

God put Aubrey on this earth to teach people something and I think she got the lesson out loud and clear. She taught us to appreciate life and love every minute of it because you never know when your life is going to end. Aubrey was only here for a little while, but she lightened the world with her beautiful smile. Aubrey fought for her life and never complained. She is an angel sent here for a reason and you were blessed to have Aubrey in your life even if just for a while. I feel blessed for getting the opportunity to share how I have changed the lives of others.

I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity, but mostly I would like to thank the angel, Aubrey Rose. Thank you for showing me that there's more to life than what you get. It's all about what you give. Your smile and positive attitude on life really gave me a positive attitude on my life. I will always remember Aubrey's story and when I make a choice in life I will think "what would Aubrey do?" I know it will be the right choice. Aubrey has changed my life and I hope I can continue to change the lives of others. After reading the story of Aubrey Rose it taught me the following, in this life that we are blessed with IT'S NOT WHAT YOU GOT IT'S WHAT YOU GIVE. God bless Aubrey Rose.