

Steven Pfaffinger

Our Lady of Lourdes

I have made an impact on many peoples lives in my lifetime. My name is Steven Pfaffinger and I have been through some rough times in my life. Some you can't even think of. It all started when my brother was diagnosed with cancer called Leukemia. I helped my family out as much as a first grader could. I would bring puzzles and games up to the hospital when I would visit. Whenever I was with my brother I always put a smile on his face. I would walk around with him and play games with him. When I was in the second grade he took a turn for the worse when his liver stopped working. My family was really freaking out. When all this was happening I felt like something hit me and I needed to start helping more people. When my brother recovered I was at the hospital as much as I could. I realized I didn't want to loose my brother and if in the near future I do loose him I wanted him to know that he had a brother who loved him and cared for him. No matter how sad my mom was I would always find some way to make her laugh. When my brother was considered cured in 2007 it was such a relief for my family and I. I believe all the prayers saved my brother from his sickness.

Just the entire experience just made me want to make an impact on many others lives around me. I have done multiple things to help the people around me. Whenever we're at the hospital for my brother's check up we always visit one of our friends who have cancer. I do the exact same thing to them as I did to my brother. I always make the parents laugh also, just as I did to my mom when my brother was sick. I believe I do these things because of my mother. I would see her standing in the hall talking to the

other parents and I guess I just wanted to be like her. I also have served food to the hungry in a shelter downtown. I was really proud of myself because I gave up my Sunday afternoon to do something that helped other people. I am always putting smiles on people's faces and whenever I see a smile on someone's face it puts an even bigger one on mine.

I am also a server at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. I have served numerous amounts of times. Some events were happy and others were sad. I was really honored when I was hand picked to serve Fr. Wolfer's Funeral mass. When mass was over I was getting so many thanks from family members and friends. They were telling me that they were proud of me for giving up my learning time to serve a very important mass to them. When I was in the cafeteria talking to the other servers this lady walked up to us and said she had never seen such servers like us. She said she had never seen a group of kids get into the mass like we did. When she said that it put the biggest smile on my face. When I was smiling I was thinking in my head that I did something very special for that family that day.

I realized life is short and you want to be the best you can be. It's my life and I think others deserve a great life too.