

Brianna Taylor – Immaculate Heart of Mary – McNicholas High School

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The American Girl Fashion Show presented by the Aubrey Rose Foundation is where I started my journey of service with the Aubrey Rose Foundation three years ago. Since participating in the American Girl Fashion Show, I have done many things with the Foundation. After my year of being in the show, I have helped with the American Girl Fashion Show. My favorite part is helping the little girls to get ready and feel pretty. I have also helped with the Aubrey Rose Foundation Fall Festival for the past two years; I loved seeing the little children paint their pumpkins. I helped prepare for and worked at the Dance for the Heart of It. It was a lot of work going to lots of businesses requesting donations, but every donation was to help families with some of the most challenging situations imaginable. I am a student ambassador at my school, and that enabled me to persuade the student body to create a fundraising event called “hearts for hearts” where we collect money and sent it to the Aubrey Rose Foundation. I cannot wait for my next opportunity to help with the Aubrey Rose Foundation.

I also perform service acts throughout my community. Over the summer, I spent forty-five hours helping out with my school’s Parish Religion Program (PRP). I always look forward to helping at PRP because it is fun to work with the younger children and help them strengthen their faith. I also enjoy perform works of service with Matthew 25 Ministries. I love that they have a variety of stations, so you can always have something new to do. I especially enjoy making care packages for people who are in need after natural disasters. I do service work at “Bake Me Home” as well. At Bake Me Home, I have done service by making packages to give to underprivileged people moving into a home, making pot holders, and organizing products to put in the packages. I have also done a program with them where we take pictures of families who cannot pay to have professional pictures done. I love doing works of service because knowing that I am helping others is an amazing reward.

I am an altar server in my Church community. I serve weddings, funerals, Holy Days of Obligation, and regular Sunday masses. I love to serve on the altar because it helps me to focus on what is really happening in the Mass and it helps to remind me that Jesus died to save me from sin. My favorite Masses to serve are the early morning Holy Day of Obligation masses. There are fewer people there and I feel like it truly gives me the full experience of the Mass. It makes me feel like the mass is happening just for me. Many people come to me after Mass and personally thank me for serving. I have been told that I am very holy up on the altar. After the weddings, the couples are always very appreciative of my help. It is always heart-warming to see the couple exchanging their vows because they are so happy together and so excited for their future. I love to serve weddings because seeing the couple like this always makes me feel the happiness and hopefulness for the future and it makes me think about how much I want to help people feel like that in their lives.

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For the past few years on my birthday, instead of asking for gifts from my friends, I have asked for money to donate to those in need. My family is always asking for donations to give to those in need especially two years ago when I participated in the American Girl Fashion Show. All the money we gathered from the show would be given to a little boy named Sean. Knowing that I was giving to someone with a name and a face made it even more special than if I hadn't known who it was; it made it more personal. It was amazing to know that Sean was able to come to Cincinnati to receive the treatment that he needed. I only wish I could have met him in person and could have seen his smiling face.

In the future, I want to continue to do works of service. I want to have a positive impact on the world and a positive effect on people. I want to help people and be the best person I can be. I don't know my exact plans, but I am planning to study mental disorders and travel the world to help those who cannot afford a treatment for their disorder.