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Have you ever felt really happy when you've helped someone with something small? Well, I have because I knew I had impacted that person. When I have helped that person, I feel wonderful because I made their day. Here are ways I've helped others. First I helped my mother in Africa. Secondly I helped feed others. The third way is I've helped through school and other organizations.

The first time I remember helping someone was when I was in Africa. I was born in Ethiopia. I lived with my mother and three younger siblings. My father died when I was young. My mother relied on me to help with my two sisters and baby brother. We were very poor and lived in a mud home that had no water or electricity. My mother sold vegetables to support our family. While she was working, I would be cooking dinner for my family everyday, and babysitting my siblings when I was only 6 or 7 years old. I would also carry two jugs of water uphill for about a $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile. I've learned a lot about caring for my family. My mother had to give all of her children up for adoption because she wanted us to have a better life.

I feel lucky to have come to America like my mom wanted me to. I have learned to serve others from her and my adoptive parents. In America, I've volunteered at a homeless shelter. My family and I would go to a shelter and we would bring food to serve the people. It was amazing seeing all the happy faces of the homeless people that received the meal. I have also helped at my old school St. John the Baptist. The ways I've helped are volunteering for the Breakfast in Bethlehem during Advent and the Fish Fry during Lent where I served food. There is a prayer campaign called 40 Days for Life. We would help by praying to end abortion and protect the unborn. I also helped a lot by doing volunteer work in a girls group called Challenge.

My grandma lives at The Little Sisters of the Poor nursing home. My family and I volunteer there. We helped the elderly by serving drinks and food at their Christmas party. I love helping there because the elderly people love seeing younger people and it makes them very happy. At St. Bernard school I have helped a lot. Every year St. Bernard does this event called Penny Challenge. It is when the whole school collects money and all that money goes to kids in Uganda. The kids in Uganda could have money for things for school. I've also volunteered at St. Vincent de Paul by helping the hungry collecting certain food they need. Since I'm an 8th grade, I wanted to be a good role model for the younger kids. So, I've helped younger kids by reading to them or helping them with school work.

I would be honored to be the recipient of the 2016 Aubrey Rose Foundation Scholarship. I am glad that I have been able to make a difference in the lives of people around me. Someday I want to discover other ways to make a difference all over the world. Every time I help someone I feel like I'm getting closer and closer to how God wants me to live my life. I have learned a lot from my mother and my adoptive parents to always help others. Thank you for taking your time to read my essay!