

## **Kirk Karbowsky-St. Gabriel Consolidated-St. Xavier High School**

Helping others and trying to make a difference in people's lives is very important. Many people think you have to do big things to make a difference but I think small things that you do more often can have a big impact. My grandma is widowed. She still works and lives close by, but she gets lonely now that she lives alone. I like to go and stay overnight with her just to keep her company. I also help her with things like putting up holiday decorations and taking out garbage. Decorating for every holiday is important to her since my grandpa loved to do it and always went all out. Helping her with this helps me remember my grandpa as well as making things easier for her. I try to do other things at home like help with laundry, take garbage out, clean the kitchen, and clean up after myself. Sometimes I even remember to do these things without being asked.

At school, there are many opportunities to help others. My school has a buddy program pairing up the junior high students with the younger kids. I have really liked working with my buddies and making them feel more comfortable at school, helping them with reading or math, or getting them ready for a school event like their Christmas show. It's also a lot of fun to do things with the kindergarteners and first graders as they are very funny. It is hard for me to imagine that I was once just like them. We have many different service projects at school to help people in need by collecting pennies, hats and gloves, soap and shampoo, pop can tabs, or food. I like participating in these and always try to get a lot of things to bring in so my class will have the highest participation. Another way I help others at school is by tutoring other kids in math. Math is my favorite subject, and I like to try to help others understand it so they can learn to enjoy it too and see that it is really not that scary and hard.

In my neighborhood, I do other things to try to make things better for the people in my community. Our police chief runs a Christmas adopt-a-family program and I like to pick families with kids my age. I try to get them the new, cool toys and games and clothes so they can have a great Christmas. At other times of the year, there are collections for back to school or other necessities and I have helped collect items for these. My community also has events, like concerts, a Halloween dog parade, 5K runs and a street fair that all benefit different charities. I have helped by working at booths at these events. I also think I am making an impact by reffing soccer for the younger kids' games and by not excluding younger kids when we play in the neighborhood or at the pool. I try to be a good role model for the younger kids in these ways. To try and help people outside my small community, I have volunteered at Mathew 25 Ministries and at the Aubrey Rose American Girl Fashion Show and Fall Festival.

I am excited about going to high school for many reasons. One of these is that there are some great service projects at St X that I want to get involved with. There are a lot more things to choose from than in grade school and, when you are older, you are allowed to do more. I like trying to make a difference in people's lives. It's really not hard to help people and I like how good it makes me feel, too.