

## **Anna Blair – St. Louis Elementary – Notre Dame Academy (page 1 of 5)**

I am 13 years old and I've been a Girl Scout since 1<sup>st</sup> grade. The motto of the Girl Scouts is to make the world a better place by being friendly, helpful, respectful, and caring. I have taken this message to heart and I strive to live by it every day.

For instance, my troop went around the school grounds one year and picked up all of the litter in the woods and by the buildings. As a scout, I sold cookies, and the leftover boxes of cookies that I didn't sell were taken to the Ronald McDonald House. We would give the cookies to the residents, and they thoroughly enjoyed our visits. Seeing the look on their faces inspired me to continue to come back.

My grandma is a very creative person, and she taught me everything I know about sewing and crocheting. I am so thankful she taught me these skills, because with them I am able to give back to my community in so many ways. For example, several years ago I crocheted scarves to give to my local homeless shelter, and baby blankets for my newborn cousins. Over the COVID-19 pandemic, a few of my mom's friends and their neighbors were in need of face masks to be able to go out in public. When I found out about this, I took my sewing machine and went to work. I sewed 16 face masks and gave them away to the people I knew needed them.

Every year, my mom and I take clothes I grew out of and don't wear anymore to my town's homeless shelter. Like I mentioned earlier, I was a Girl Scout, and one of the activities we did was volunteer for a couple hours at Matthew 25 Ministries. Although we did simple things like sorting towels, I felt so happy to have the opportunity to make a difference in somebody's life. I enjoyed the experience so much; my mom, brother, and I have continued to go back and volunteered several other times.

Food is one of the vital things necessary to live, yet some people don't have enough. That is why some kids who go to my church and I packed bags of turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, and other foods to give to struggling families for Thanksgiving. Also, my brother and I volunteered at an organization called Empower Youth this winter, and there we helped assemble food bags for kids who come from low-income families.

Furthermore, I am very active in my church, as every opportunity I have, I altar serve and read at St. Louis Church. I feel that it's so important to be involved in the Church, and I enjoy participating in mass as well. Last year, I was a volunteer at my church's Vacation Bible School, and there I interacted with many of the younger students. It was such an enjoyable experience.

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Kindness Crew was developed at St. Louis several years ago, and the purpose of this club is for the Junior High to promote kindness toward others and to set a good Christian example for the younger grades. As a member of Kindness Crew, we worked very hard to make this happen. We bought books for the children about being friendly and compassionate to others, and encouraged this behavior using a “Kindness Wall.”

One of the awards St. Louis offers is the “Crusader Award,” and it’s awarded to the “student who demonstrates by words and actions genuine Christian Behavior and School Spirit.” Last year I was given the honor of receiving this prestigious award, and I’m very proud to have been chosen.

As I move on from St. Louis to Notre Dame Academy, I will continue to contribute to my community, and strive to make the world a better place.

### **Images**



Me, crocheting a blanket to donate to an auction

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My grandma helping me sew masks to donate



Me holding a baby blanket I crocheted for my newborn cousin

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Me volunteering at Matthew 25 Ministries



My Girl Scout Troop and I at the Ronald McDonald House

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The Crusader Award I achieved