

Macey Blanton - St. Michaels - Stephen T. Badin High School, page 1 of 2

My name is Macey Blanton, and I am in eighth grade at St. Michael Parish School. When my teacher told us about Aubrey Rose's story, I was very moved and inspired. I wanted to learn more about her. As I read about her life story, it really made me think about some of the good things I have done in my life. At first, I struggled with coming up with a list, but then I realized that I do good deeds on a daily basis. You don't always need to "move mountains" to change someone's life forever. Even the small things you do every day can have a positive impact on people.

One example where I have made a difference was volunteer work at Matthew 25: Ministries. This is an international humanitarian aid and disaster relief organization helping the poorest of the poor and disaster victims locally, regionally, nationally and internationally regardless of race, creed or political persuasion. My soccer team and I volunteer there as often as we can. I think that impacts many people because just doing simple things like folding clothes, sorting and organizing can help someone out. There are many people who don't have clothes, and folding these clothes and giving them out to people really do make a difference. The clothes are passed out to people who need them after we help get them ready, and I think it is really cool to help other people like that. Matthew 25: Ministries is just one of the great ways to help others and make a difference in the world.

For the past 6 years, I have participated in a 5k Epilepsy run to help support those that suffer from seizures. I have a friend who has suffered from uncontrolled epilepsy, and she would have seizures in her brain almost every second of the day. Last year she underwent brain surgery which has made a positive impact on her life and is almost seizure free. My friends and family participate and donate to this charity and it is always nice to see a smile on my friend's face knowing we support her and others that suffer from epilepsy. That is such a huge accomplishment, and I am so happy I was able to help her throughout everything she's been through.

When Covid-19 first hit the United States, it hit hard. I'm sure these times were "the worst times of people's lives", and that's why I tried to make the best of it. When everyone was first online for school, everyone was so excited. Majority of the students were happy to be home. They soon learned that it wasn't as great as they thought it would be. Now, online school was fine for me, but my younger brothers struggled with virtual learning. As 11 and 10-year-old boys, they didn't have the attention span to learn new concepts online. So, that's where I decided to step in and help. Over all those long months we were quarantined and doing online school, I helped my brothers keep track of their work, and make sure they were learning. I understood that it was very stressful for both my parents and my brothers, so I did everything I could to help them get their work done. My parents never stopped working during the pandemic, so they were very grateful that I was able to step in and help.

Macey Blanton - St. Michaels - Stephen T. Badin High School, page 2 of 2

One of the last main ways I impact other peoples' lives is just by watching out for people and making sure they are okay. Even a simple, "Hi, how are you today?" Can make someone's day. If I ever see someone nervous for a test or if they need help on anything, I would help them out. I help kids with homework in my class, and I help kids study for tests. Just simple things like that can help kids out so much. Stress for teenagers is difficult and If i can be a support system for them, it makes me happy. Another way I help others is if someone is ever alone at lunch, or not really being included, I'll go over and talk to them. I don't need a group of people to come with me, I do it myself and make them feel welcome and comfortable. You don't have to give someone 1 million dollars to change their lives, the simple things matter too.

Making an impact on other people doesn't have to be in big ways, and that's how I realized that I really have impacted a lot of other people. You have to remember that we don't live forever, and we need to live our lives in the moment. Go cheer someone up, go do the thing you've wanted to do forever, treat people the way you want to be treated, and find the best in people overall. You can impact people in so many ways, and if you don't take the chance, you won't do anything at all. Now you know the ways I have impacted other people, so think about how you can be a positive impact for others too!