

## **Zachary Gates - St. Joseph Catholic School - La Salle High School, 1 of 2**

To have a positive influence on others, a leader must have many qualities and skills. A good leader must be strong, kind and able to communicate. When leaders are able to effectively communicate they are able to motivate others to do their best. Being a positive influence and making a difference in others' lives can be a rewarding experience.

It is important to make a positive influence in the lives of others, because once people see that you are an empowering person they will be motivated to become empowered as well and become advocates for themselves. Every one of us affects each other in our lives on a daily basis, sometimes for good and sometimes for bad, but some people truly leave a positive influence on others. People who almost affect us can be forgotten, as their influence is passing and going through one ear and out the other ear. People who impact us however are memorable and significant to our personal lives. Therefore, we can choose to positively affect those around us through random and intentional acts of kindness. Which means we have become a positive influence in the lives of others by simply going above and beyond what is expected of us.

Making a difference has always been one of my priorities. Being young and looking at the world with my eyes made me want to have an impact on people's lives. When I was younger I did not understand why so many people were homeless, I wanted to know why they were homeless and how they got food. My mom gave me the answers to my questions, from then on I decided I wanted to make a difference in the community. I started Zach's mission. Zach's mission was started to help the homeless people in my community. I would help my mom make spaghetti and salad to take downtown to the homeless cold shelter and pass out toiletry kits. Helping the homeless for me made me feel as though I had made an impact on someone's life by giving them something they needed, whether it was food, a toothbrush or a prayer and treating them with respect.

As a student I show my leadership qualities daily by helping around the school. I help with breakfast every morning, making sure each class gets enough breakfast brought to their classroom. I also show my leadership ability when I help the younger students with reading and sight words. Also, my leadership ability is demonstrated in the class each day by participating in class and showing honor when others are speaking. My leadership ability goes beyond the classroom, in order to be a good leader you must be teachable and coachable. As a leader I am able to advocate for myself and I'm able to show others how to advocate for themselves. With my leadership ability I am called on to do different tasks around the school for not only the students but the administration as well. Being a leader for me means motivating and inspiring others.

## **Zachary Gates - St. Joseph Catholic School - La Salle High School, 2 of 2**

In conclusion when you make a positive influence on someone's life you are using leadership qualities. A good leader always makes a difference or does their best and makes a great effort. By using my leadership qualities I have been able to have a positive influence on people in my community, my school and my home. You can change the world by helping one person at a time.