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The dictionary definition of service is “the action of helping or doing work for someone.” Although this is true, I like to think of it in a different way. In my mind, service is the action someone can do to strengthen themselves and others. Every day you are given the opportunity to do service. Service is one of the most prominent facets that describe who I am and how I want to be recognized. By helping others and making someone else’s day, it makes my life better too.

In the gospel of Mark 16:15, Jesus said to the disciples, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.” I like integrating this message into my everyday life and actions because it reminds me what God created us to do. God put us in this world to spread the message about who God is and what we can do to become stronger followers of Him. Service and caring for others is a part of God’s work.

During the summer, I had the opportunity to do a service camp called, “Shine your Light.” I volunteered with other students my age at five different organizations: Matthew 25: Ministries, Veggies Via Vespa, Bayley Place, and St. Joseph Catholic Worker House. These hours brought me the experience, knowledge, and peace that was needed to follow through on my obligation for Confirmation, but also helped me realize how much joy it brings me to help others in need.

Another way I enjoy helping others is volunteering for the Susan G. Komen organization. The Race for the Cure and More Than Pink Walk are fundraising events where people celebrate and honor those who have breast

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cancer. My grandma helps run this walk which allows my family and me to volunteer. These walks have taken place in many parts of Cincinnati. My job is to help set up all the supplies such as the tents, food, decorations, and signage. The thing I enjoy most about this activity is listening to the stories about the journeys people have to go through with breast cancer. Due to the pandemic, we couldn't celebrate this year, but I hope to do it again in the future.

At my school, the 8th grade is given the opportunity to join a group called Magnified Giving. Magnified Giving is a non-profit organization that helps students be philanthropists. Magnified Giving gives our school \$1,000, in which students choose an organization that should receive the money. By the end of our 8th grade year we will have decided and will present the check at an award celebration. I hope that wherever the money goes it will make a difference for many people.

All of these activities and more allow me to spread kindness in my own meaningful way. During the Covid pandemic we began to see and notice so many people asking for food and help. My sister and I came up with the idea of making small bags to give to the homeless that were full of necessities we use in our everyday lives. The bags included water, toothbrush, toothpaste, two bars of granola, cheese crackers, and a message saying positive quotes such as "God loves you" and "never stop fighting". We would keep these bags in my mom and dad's car for when we see anybody asking for help. By doing these deeds, I hope

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to set a good example for others and motivate them to provide services to those
in need whenever possible.

I hope that in the future I continue God's mission to keep helping others
and bringing people together. I do these things because I find that our purpose
on earth is to try to help as many people as possible. I have the motivation to
make the world a better place and impact others positively.

As Jesus said to the disciples, our mission on earth is to spread the
goodness of God.