

## **Audrey Shisler – St. Margaret of York – Summit Country Day School, Page 1 of 2**

Thank you for the opportunity to share my experiences in making the world a better place for others. These experiences have included both joy and sadness, and they have all helped to shape the kind of person that I am, and how I've grown to enjoy helping others.

I receive joy when I share my talents with others. The opportunities I have had to do this include several volunteer experiences with local agencies, such as St. Vincent de Paul, Matthew 25 Ministries, Hands for Hunger and Crayons for Computers. Some of these giving opportunities were with teammates or other school groups, where we worked together to complete a project within the time that we spent on site at the charity. The opportunity for giving that stands out most to me is my experiences at Crayons for Computers.

Crayons for Computers is a nonprofit organization, whose main mission is to provide needed supplies for teachers in schools of need, along with families in need of school supplies. My neighbor Mrs. Ewalt is a longtime volunteer there, and after house sitting for them, she asked me if I wanted to come help her one day. Little did I know that this one experience would lead to several visits to assist Mrs. Ewalt and the other dedicated adults who provide needed educational supplies for teachers in schools with larger numbers of poor students. Not only did I learn a lot about the organization, I learned a lot from the adults who volunteer there. Many of them come back regularly to help and some of them recognized me each time I visited. One of my favorite days volunteering was the teacher pick-up day, when they received supplies for their students. It was at that time I realized how much I took having basic school supplies for granted. My experience at Crayons for Computers made me feel like I was making an impact.

My Dad used to be a Catholic grade school principal and through this school, I had several opportunities to serve the community by working with St. Vincent de Paul's food pantry downtown. What was so fulfilling was the fact that I had face-to-face interaction with the people who received the benefits of the donations. We worked directly with the clients to assist them in getting needed food supplies and other items from the pantry. At the end of their trip I was able to see their smiling faces as they left with bags of food and other essential items for their families. This was one of the most rewarding experiences I've had, as I saw with my own eyes the impact that this ministry makes on those who need it the most.

At my school, St. Margaret of York, I provide comfort, support and empathy to those in my school who are grieving the loss of a loved one. This is particularly important to me because I joined this group back in 2017 when I lost my grandfather, my Opa, to a sudden illness. This event had a significant emotional impact on me, and the grief group

was so helpful. Led by our guidance counselor, along with the help of older students, I was able to understand my grief and support other students in their struggles. I felt so supported by this group that I remain involved and am now a Grief Group Leader.

A recent experience with adversity gave me a unique perspective on service to others. This past fall, I was a member of both my grade school volleyball team as well as a soccer team. This was my second year of doubling up on fall sports, but I was managing both very well. Unfortunately in late August I was injured during a soccer game. My broken ankle was not serious, but it landed me in a walking boot, unable to participate on the field or on the court for several weeks. That did not stop me from supporting my coaches, my teammates and my friends, because I continued to attend all practices and games, even though I was unable to play. The valuable lesson I learned was that, even if I cannot play, my teammates still needed me for support. I cherished the chance to be an active teammate while not being on the field, whether it was a high five, pep talk or ear to listen.

Even though this was a challenge and I wanted to play very badly, I enjoyed watching the happiness on the faces of my friends and the growth of both teams throughout the season. In soccer, I was a mentor to a younger player who took over my position on the field. I was happy and eager to support her and to see her improvement. This carried over to volleyball as I became a third “coach” during practices. I helped with the drills that I was physically able to do. The coaches appreciated my attitude and I enjoyed the impact that I could make as a teammate.

I look forward to continuing my service in high school, whether it's on the field or in the many other service activities that await me in high school. Thank you for your time and consideration for an Aubrey Rose Scholarship.

Sincerely,  
Audrey Shisler