

Aidan Stahley- St. Catherine of Siena- La Salle High School

The definition for volunteer is a person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task. But for me, a volunteer is someone that wants to help others with no reward in mind and just wants others to be happy. Since I was 8 years old, I have helped my grandpa volunteer at St. Leo's food pantry. When we volunteer at St. Leo's food pantry, we would go to Kroger and get food from there such as fruits, vegetables, meat, and baked goods. The food we receive isn't expired, but it isn't fresh enough to be sold. After we get the food, we travel over to St. Leo's food pantry and we grab a cart from inside of the building and take it to the car. This way we can get the food out of the car and get it into the building. We then separate them into the places that they belong. An example is getting the fruits and vegetables onto the shelves, or getting the meat into the freezers. These products help the people that are homeless, poor, or are in need that live in the area around the pantry. Doing this takes us around one and half to two hours of our time.

I had started doing this volunteer work because my brother had been doing it with my grandpa for a few years. When I had first started helping my grandpa, we were getting the food from Remke's grocery store then went to St. Leo's rectory basement. Now, they have a separate building that can hold more food to help more people. Since my brother has been busier with school and work, he has not been able to help as much.

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However, when he was looking for a Boy Scout Eagle project, he immediately thought of helping St. Leo's. He fixed up their confessional as his project. As soon as I heard he was helping them, I was really excited about helping. I am also a scout and enjoy volunteering in the parish. I went over on a couple Sundays in October to help paint the walls and place down carpet squares. This project will be used by parishioners for years to come.

I will continue to help St. Leo's parish during my high school years. It means a lot to me helping others but also I will be able to spend time with my grandpa. My other one died a few years ago from pancreatic cancer and I want to make sure I spend as much time as I can with my other one.