

## **Danielle Stenger--Saint Vivian--Roger Bacon High School**

In my life, service is an important part of my life. I try to do as much service as I can, even if it's a small or large act. I think it is important to do as much service as you can in your life because it could help anyone around you. These acts can make a difference if they really mean something. Even the smallest acts of kindness can go a very long way, that's why we must try our best to treat each other with kindness and respect. I truly believe our world will find the right way to treat each other, and we will spread that sort of kindness around.

At home, I try to do as much service as I can. Most of these acts are small, but I think they have an impact on whoever I do them for. I babysit my neighbor's son and walk him around my neighborhood. I don't get paid for that, and I think that's a good way to consider that service. Another thing I have done is simply taken my dog for a walk, just to easily get some exercise. Over the summer, my brother and I washed my grandparent's cars several times. They are older, so sometimes they can't move around as well, so they asked us. This has made me realize something as small as that could make someone's day.

I can definitely say the majority of my service work goes to school. During school, I try my absolute best to be kind to everyone. My eighth grade class and I recycle every other Friday. We go around the school and pick up the recycling in every classroom. This helps out the other teachers, so they don't have to do it themselves. Before Covid-19, I used to be an altar server for St. Vivian, and I assisted the priest and deacon. As well as a server, I was an usher at school masses. I collected the prayers and offerings of not only the parishioners, but also my classmates, and others at my school. Another

thing my grade participated in last year was having little kindergarten buddies. We don't have them this year, due to Covid-19. I would be more than happy to continue with them if we could. The last thing I participate in school is playing sports. Whether it's on the court or on the sideline, I'm always cheering for my teammates and trying to encourage them.

Around my community, I believe I have impacted people's lives very much. As a Confirmation candidate, we had to do some kind of service project with our sponsor. My aunt and I went to an animal shelter called Heartt Animal Refuge. We did all kinds of things like feeding the animals, playing with them, and cleaning their cages. I really liked doing this, and it made me feel good. One of my biggest and favorite things I have done for the past three years was Vacation Bible School. I love working with kids, and that was a way to still participate in service, even in summer. I volunteered during St. Vivian's Vacation Bible School, and my old church, Our Lady of the Rosary. When my mom was an intervention assistant in Finneytown Local School District, I helped her in activities for the kids she worked with. I would do a lot of things, like cut up paper for projects, or help get materials for something they're doing.

I think making a difference in someone's life is very important. As you can see, I have done many small acts, and others with bigger impacts. I believe all that matters is how much it truly means to you, and how much you give. Even as I get older, I want to participate in more service projects and other acts. I help in my school, parish, community and at home. I try my best to be a leader to everyone, no matter what the

cause is. As I go into high school, I am looking forward to bringing these good deeds and kindness into my school community.