

William Timmerman – St. Jude – Elder High School

There are many times I have affected people in my life at school, at home, and out in the world. I have affected people in school by including everyone and being kind and respectful, at home by being a good big brother, and out in the world by volunteering.

There are many examples of me affecting people out in the world. One of those examples is by volunteering. One place I volunteer at is Pregnancy Center West, where we pack baby supplies for mothers in need. Some other places I've volunteered at are City Gospel Mission and Tender Mercies to cook for and feed people who need it the most. Out of all the places I've volunteered at, my favorite place to go is by far Bethany House. I have been going there once or twice a year since the second grade. We cook and serve food, eat with the families, and play with the kids living there. I like going there because I get to make new friends and give the kids comfort by giving them someone to play with outside their families. When I play with those kids, it doesn't matter who we are and how big our house is, or if we even do have a house - it just matters that we are together to have a good time.

I can also affect people out in the world by sharing the talents that I have. I can share one them, drumming, to help others. I have been to nursing homes to play holiday songs for the elderly. I feel like it makes them feel happy and brings back memories from when they were younger. It can make them feel glad that they have lived this long and remember about how good of a life they have had. I also have played the drums in my Rock Band at the Sophie's Angel Run. The Meinhardts are Sophie's family, and they are a big part of the St. Jude parish, my parish. They make an impact on the community to raise awareness and raise money for cancer research, specifically brain tumors. When I play drums at the run, I can help attract more people to take part in it. I can help encourage the runners to push forward and finish the rest of the race.

There are also ways I affect people in school too. I try to be the best classmate and teammate I can be. I try to include everyone on the team and give them all a chance with the ball. I try to encourage them to keep fighting when we are down and to never give up. When I was little, I always thought playing with big kids was the coolest thing ever. I always try to include everyone and be kind to everyone. I strive to be a good role model for younger kids. I like to help out at Vacation Bible School and Cub Scouts because I get to meet younger kids and show them an example of good behavior. I try to include my friends' younger siblings in events and treat them like I'm one of their brothers. I want to make them feel happy and cool that they are hanging out with an older kid and give them a sense of belonging.

There are some ways I affect the people at home. I have to be a good big brother to my two little sisters to show them how to act as they get older. I have to show

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them how to be a responsible person and how to be polite to adults. Another way I affect people at home is by playing with my sisters if they don't have anyone else to play with. I go along with whatever they want to play, whether I like it or not. I try to be a role model to them like the other little kids at school and in our neighborhood.

All in all, I try to be the best person I can be, and to help out people in need. Helping others and being a good role model are important parts of my life. I will continue trying to be an example for younger kids and will carry on these actions into high school.