

## **Josie Woods - St. Gertrude School - Ursuline Academy**

Throughout our lives we affect people in very different ways, sometimes by not even knowing it. Being at school provides many ways to serve others and I have been given the opportunity to serve through our Student Council. On Student Council, we recently chose a charity that we would like to raise money for, and I was responsible for presenting what the charity does to all the different grade levels. I feel that being a member of Student Council provides an opportunity for me to teach the students in younger grades the importance of getting involved and how good it can feel to help others.

I am also a member of Saint Anne's Guild which is a group of fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grade girls in the parish that meet monthly to do activities to grow closer to God. We help clean the Church and perform other jobs around the Church that are needed. I think that it is good for the older girls because we can show the younger girls how to act and the importance of serving others and God. Though setting a good example at school is important, it is also important to set examples for other people around you like your family. I have been given an opportunity as an older sister to set examples for my little sisters.

From a very young age, I was taught to give back to the community and help others that are not as fortunate as I am. By being the oldest I have a responsibility to teach my younger sisters the importance of helping others. I have been volunteering at The Broken Bus Ministry which serves homeless people in downtown Cincinnati. I have volunteered at their warehouse sorting and bagging candy and have also rode on the bus to serve food and provide clothing to people. The homeless people are so grateful to receive clothing and food that they smile from ear to ear, and some even cry. It makes me feel good to know that I am able to make someone happy by just giving them a few things and talking to them. The people who run The Broken Bus Ministry don't judge people because of what they look like or what they have done in the past, they help anyone who needs it. By volunteering with them, it makes me feel good that I can show people that people do love them and that they are not alone. I feel that this shows my sisters to not judge people that they do not know and shows them the importance of helping others, even people that are different. As an older sister I want to help my sisters know that they too can impact someone in just a few simple ways. I hope that one day my sisters can make an impact on other people just like I have.