

Kendle Coffey-Nativity Of Our Lord- Mount Notre Dame High School

I have never really thought about the ways that I have made a difference in the lives around me. I have always lived by my faith and I have tried to do the right thing. As I think about it now, I have made an impact on others in my life in many ways.

My family has been involved in the parish of Nativity my entire life. I have gone to Nativity School for almost nine years. I believe that my journey at Nativity School and my upbringing at home have helped me to learn, grow, and make a difference for those around me. Throughout my time at Nativity, I have always been a positive person in the classroom and in my extra activities. I am the one that encourages the others and leads by example. In volleyball I set an example for others by helping my teammates, respecting the coaches and referees, playing fairly, and being supportive of others. After several years of being on the team, I found myself as one of the more experienced and better players. We had new and unexperienced girls join the team in 7th and 8th grade. I made a point to take the time to help the coaches show them the basics and I always encouraged them in a positive way as they learned and improved.

There are other examples of ways that I had a positive influence on others. These include being an altar server starting in 4th grade, and being a Eucharistic Minister starting in 8th grade. I was proud to be one of four 8th graders chosen by our religion teacher to train the incoming 4th graders to become altar servers. I have also been chosen to lead the closing prayer service for the entire school at the end of my 7th grade school year. I was then chosen to do the same at the opening prayer service for my 8th grade year.

In school I have always tried to be the best student that I could possibly be. I have always had very positive comments from my teachers on my report cards. I strive to receive all "A's". I have not always hit this goal but I do try my best and I stay positive in the classroom. My teachers always remark how respectful I am in class and how my enthusiasm and participation is always high. I am very proud of the fact that I am nearly finished with my final year at Nativity and I have never received a "Behavior Report" which can result in a detention. I have also done my best to befriend everyone in my school, even those that may be shy and timid or awkward. Sometimes I find that I am the only person that will be friendly to a few of the students that some of the others may stay from. I think that it is important to make everyone feel included and liked.

At home my place in our family is being the only daughter to my parents and the younger sister to my brother. I actually get along well with my brother and he is my best friend. I have always been there for my brother when he needed support. My family has been involved with the March of Dimes ever since my brother was born too early, weighing less than three pounds. Ever since I was just a baby, I have been to every annual March for Babies event to help raise money for babies' health. I have also volunteered with my dad for the Crayons to Computers organization and I also agreed to have my beloved long hair cut off and donated to Locks of Love.

My family still lives on the same street where we lived ever since I was born. After some newer families moved onto our street, I suddenly became the oldest girl on our street. I found that all of the little kids love to follow me around and they really look up to me. I like to sit them down on blanket in the yard and read books to them or to teach them gymnastics and games. I have also become a baby sitter, which I really enjoy. I really try to be a positive role model to these younger kids because I realize how much they try to imitate me and the way that I act. It makes me want to be a better person because I am providing an example for them each day.

Some other activities that I have been involved with are volunteering for the St. Vincent De Paul food pantry downtown and volunteering to make regular visits to a school for kids with autism (Applied Behavioral Services) to play board games and spend time with the students there. Doing these things make me realize how lucky I am and also make me want to do more to help others that are less fortunate. I even had the opportunity to volunteer for the Aubrey Rose/American Girl Modeling fundraiser. My family all came to watch the show and I really had a good time "walking the runway".

Another big way that I have had an effect on others is through my singing and acting performances. I have been very involved with community performances and school performances and even church performances. I was invited to sing at a fundraiser in memory of a local woman who died of ovarian cancer. This performance at Mt. Saint Joe's was a very uplifting event and I was proud to have been a part of the event by lending my voice to the fundraising cause. I have been told that my singing is inspiring and uplifting and I love to watch people get joy from listening to me sing and perform.

I am thankful for so many things in my life. I am grateful for the opportunities that I have had and I am excited about my future in high school and beyond. Thank you for providing scholarships to so many kids and I hope that I have shared enough about me to help you to make your decision. Thank you!