

## **Samantha Flowers – St. Paul School – Notre Dame Academy**

“You must become the change we want to see in the world” -Mohandas Ghandi. At the age of seven, I participated in the Aubrey Rose Foundation American Girl Doll Fashion Show. I learned about Aubrey’s story, and I learned how she impacted the people around her in the short three years of her life. Even at a young age, I knew at that moment that I wanted to live my life just as Aubrey had. Since then I have tried to be someone who affects people for the better at home, school, and in the community.

Family is one of the most important things to me, so I never miss a chance to do something that benefits them. I will always support my family in whatever they do because I know that I will only get one family, so I must love them every day like it could be one of our last. My mom is from a small town in Iowa, so that means that her entire side of the family lives in Iowa. It is hard, but we try and see them as often as possible. I make my best effort to show them how much I love them, and I hope that they can see it. Along with my mom’s side of the family I have my little cousins Lily (3) and Bryce (7). Being young children, they want to do activities that a normal 3-year-old and seven-year-old would want to do, but I am never against participating with them in these activities. They are always happy when I play with them because we are the only cousins they have, and they love to spend time with us when we are there for a short visit.

The student and staff at St Paul are some of the nicest and most helpful people I’ve ever met, so it is natural for me to try to return the favor. I have been on St. Paul’s Student Council for the past 2 years, and I became the treasurer this year. I, along with the rest of the Student Council, have worked to build the faith in our school and act as one loving community. Student Council does activities to raise money for the school and other local organizations and charities, organizes activities for Catholic Schools week, and organizes collections of food, mittens, gloves, and other donations. I try and help the people in my community and at school through Student Council. Student Council has helped me reach out to people in need and try to do what I can to help. Along with Student Council, I have been tutoring a fifth-grade student (Will) at St. Paul for the last two years, and I started tutoring a fourth-grade student (Laney) at St. Paul student this year. I knew that I left an impact on Will because he contacted the school counselor asking for me to tutor him again this year. I can see improvement in both students, as well as them working harder on their homework, quizzes, and tests.

I often volunteer at Mary Rose Mission and help prepare the meals. It feels good to know that I prepared a meal for people who normally get only one meal a day. Since my dad is a teacher at St Paul, we usually volunteer to take donations that the school collected to places who are looking for supplies. Not only does this affect the people whom we have served, but it also affects me. It shows me how lucky I am to have a good home and three meals a day. When I was younger, I went to a Nursing home with

my Girl Scout Troop for Christmas. We sang Christmas Carols and gave them small presents that we had made. Like Aubrey's story, this affected me way more than I thought it would when I first walked into the nursing home. Seeing the smiles on the elderly people's faces made my heart melt. It let me know that I had impacted them and gave them something to be happy about. Even though I don't know these people whom I have provided service for, it still left an impact on me, knowing that I had left an impact on them.

Hearing Aubrey's story has led me to become an impactful person, but there is still so much more I can do to live like Aubrey had. The world needs more people like Aubrey which is why more people need to hear her story. If we as a community can come together and serve the communities around us, the communities around us will start to serve the communities around them. Eventually, the whole world will become one built around love and service to others. I know it is a lot of work and I may not be around to see it, but it will all certainly be worth it.