

## Anna Perkins- St. Bernard School- Roger Bacon High School

When I was younger I had the honor of participating in the American Girl Fashion Show for the Aubrey Rose Foundation. Aubrey's story has stuck with me over the years. It taught me that I can make a difference in the lives of people in my school, parish, and community simply by being kind and showing a positive attitude. Some of these simple acts include: setting a good example at school, helping out at my parish, and donating to my community. I hope that these simple acts can make a difference in the lives of the people around me.

At school, I always try to show kindness to everyone. Since I am in the eighth grade I know that it is important to set a good example to the younger grades. Even if it is as simple as holding the door for someone or picking up someone's books after they fall. It was not until this year when my close friend injured her knee that I learned that simply being a loyal friend also sets a good example for others to see. When other people in my school community noticed that I was staying in from recess to help my friend, kindness started to spread in small ways. Seeing these simple acts of kindness all around my school was rewarding to watch and two teachers gave me special "Light of Christ" recognition for what I was doing.

For my parish, I help my mom make the baptismal bibs for the new babies who are baptized. A few summers ago I took a sewing class to learn how to embroider and finish the edges of the bibs. It is truly rewarding to look in the parish bulletin and see the smiling faces of the new parents, the babies, and their godparents. Even once I reach high school, I will continue helping out at my parish in this way. Being involved in all the babies' baptisms in this small way reminds me to pray for them all everyday.

To help my community, my family donates to organizations such as the ASPCA and St. Jude. Another way I help out in my community is donating items that are still useful to organizations like St. Vincent DePaul and Goodwill to assist less fortunate families. Even though I am not an actual member of my older brother's Boy Scout troop, I help out at service projects and help set up for many events. I always enjoy helping out at these events. Many families of the younger scouts have noticed when I am there helping and have started bringing their scouts' siblings to scout projects and events to help too. Over the years of helping out in my community, I realize how fortunate I am and how important it is to give back to society in any small way I can.

I believe that learning Aubrey's story when I was younger makes me appreciate that I do not have to be a talented athlete or stellar student to make a difference at my school, parish, or community. I learned that just by having a positive attitude and a smile on my face like Aubrey did can make a difference in people's lives. I just strive to be a loyal and kind friend and let those around me see the difference it makes. I keep Aubrey's story in my mind constantly and know in my heart that a little kindness really does go a long way.