

Katie Brown  
Cardinal Pacelli School

I think it is hard to answer the question “how have you made an impact on the people in your life?” It is not usually the type of question you would ask yourself or think about. Although once someone hears about the story of Aubrey Rose there is no possible way they don’t ask themselves this question. When I got this assignment I didn’t know much about Aubrey Rose, so I looked up her story on the internet and read so much about this little girl. It is truly amazing, all the things she had done to make a difference in her short life here on Earth. Once I learned more about her I started asking myself, “how have I made an impact on the people in my life?”

Throughout your life you will have to make many decisions. Some decisions you make you will regret. One decision I made that I will never regret is to live my life being happy and always staying positive about things. Everyone has their bad days, that is what makes us human. Bad things happen but that’s life, and soon you will have to get over it. I am not saying I never have bad days because I believe that is not even possible, but what I am trying to get across is that even if I’m not having one of the best days I try to think of the good things that will come out of what has happened or the good things in life.

Everything happens for a reason. Through everything that has happened to me, I have learned more about who I am and where I stand in life. I learn more about myself each day by making decisions that will affect that moment or even my life. I have made the decision to live my life with a positive vibe. I think this has not only affected me and my personality, but it has also affected the people in my life too.

Smiling is a big part of my life. I think it is one of the many very simple things you could do to make someone feel special. Another simple act of kindness is to never judge people. I know everyone gets told this all the time, but I wonder if anyone actually follows this saying. You should never judge someone, because you don’t know what they are going through, especially strangers. I just went to the grocery store today, and I think I made a difference to two women I encountered there.

I was turning around the corner of an aisle kind of fast, when a lady was turning into that same aisle. Neither of us were paying much attention, and she accidentally bumped me. We both stopped and she looked at me with an angry look on her face and said “Excuse you!” in a rude tone of voice. I knew it wasn’t my fault, but without thinking, I looked her in the eyes, put a smile on my face, and replied “You’re right, it was my fault, I’m sorry. Have a good day!” and walked away. Immediately I saw this woman look back at me like I was crazy. She just yelled at me for something I didn’t do and I thanked her? Most nice things we do in life, we do without thinking. It is a natural instinct for almost everyone to do nice, courteous things for other people.

My other example of me helping someone at the grocery store was when an elderly woman was trying to reach the peach flavored yogurt from the top shelf of the refrigerated aisle. She reached as high as she could trying to get the yogurt, and I knew if she tried any harder she would somehow end up hurting herself. I looked over at her with a smile and asked if I could help her get it down and she said that would be wonderful. I reached up high and grabbed three peach yogurts for this woman and I could tell she really appreciated it.

I have made a difference in peoples lives that I have never met also. My school offers many charity programs that I love to participate in. Each year I participate in Prepare Affair, The Christmas Kindness Program, and Adopt a Family. At the end of the Fall, a group of the members from Cardinal Pacelli School/Our Lord Christ the King take part in Prepare Affair. This activity is usually on a Saturday morning and we rake leaves, clean gutters, etc. for the elders in our community who are not able to do this themselves. My friends and I make up a group and participate. It is not only a good cause to help a needy family, but we also make it fun too!

When I was in fifth grade my teacher gave each student in our grade \$10 with which to perform a random act of kindness. We could buy baked goods with this \$10 to sell and make more money to give somewhere, or we could do an even simpler act of kindness like offer to pay for someone's lunch when out to eat. In fifth grade, my friends and I put our money together and had a bake sale after masses one weekend. We ended up making over \$800! With this money we made Christmas gift bags for homeless people downtown, and we also bought pet supplies like toys and food for a local animal shelter. The gift bags consisted of things like shampoo, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, mouth wash, Christmas candy, etc. The people we gave them to were so happy and grateful!

In sixth grade my teacher did the same thing, once again. She gave each of us \$10 to do a random act of kindness, and this time I decided not to team up with friends, but do my own project. I asked my Aunts, Uncles, Grandparents, and parents to match my \$10 so I could buy hats, gloves and scarves for people at St. Vincent De Paul downtown. I named my project "Gloves for Love." I believe I ended up with around \$270 by just asking people I knew to donate. I went to Meijer, and picked up as many hats, gloves, and scarves as I could with my money. I told the employee's and manager of Meijer what I was going to do with the hats, gloves and scarves, and they said they would love to chip in. The manager of Meijer gave me about 20 pairs of gloves for my project and one of the employees let me use her employee discount so that I could afford more gloves. I ended up with so many hats, gloves, and scarves, it was overwhelming! I brought them all to St. Vincent De Paul and as soon as I pulled up people were asking for the things I had brought. Unfortunately, the people at St. Vincent De Paul said I couldn't give them out outside or else it would not be fair to the people who had been standing in line for hours to get things from St. Vincent De Paul. The fifth and sixth grade teachers still do this project with their students, but my teachers did not continue this project for the 7th and 8th grade, I continued it myself. Each year I take money that I earned and do a random act of kindness. It makes me feel so good to know I am helping someone out or even just making someone happy.

My school also has a buddy system, where the older grades have a little 'buddy' in the lower grades. At the moment I have two first grade buddies. We get together with our buddies about once a month to do fun activities and crafts with them. After the first day I spent with my buddies, I realized I made an impact on them because in less then a week I had both of my buddies parents calling me asking me to babysit their kids because their daughters said nothing but good things about me. That made me very happy to hear. When I see my buddies in the hall they always run up to me with a big smile and their arms wide open to give me a hug along with their friends who know me as well.

It March, 2008, I had a birthday party for my 11th birthday at Hyde Park Country Club's bowling alley. About a month before my birthday my dad was coming home from a business trip, but had to stay the night in Denver because it was snowing too hard for his flight to take off. While he was waiting in the airport, he met a private from Afghanistan named Kevin Pemberton. Kevin was going back to war in Afghanistan. My dad the evening with Kevin talking and getting to know him. They exchanged email addresses so they could email each other and become pen pals. When my dad finally got home from his trip, he gave me the idea that instead of people bringing me presents for my birthday, they bring things for Kevin and his friends that we could put in a care package and send to him. All my friends brought things for Kevin and his friends and the following day my parents and I packaged them up and sent them to Kevin in Afghanistan. When Kevin received all three, huge packages, he called my dad and me and said thank you so much. He hung the big card we sent him next to his bed and said he and his friends were having a great time eating all the goodies and using everything we sent them. Talking to Kevin and sending him that care package showed him that we care, and it made me feel good about myself that I was making someone very happy.

I have two other siblings in my family. I have a 16 year old brother, and a 10 year old brother, so I am the middle child in my family. Being the middle child you have your responsibilities. I have learned so much from my older brother, and now that my older brother is always so busy with high school homework and sports, etc. I have to share what I learned with my younger brother. I help my little brother with his homework when he needs me, and when he can't find something. I teach my little brother many things including life lessons I have learned such as how to be a good friend. We may argue sometimes, but I think we all three know that if we need something, the other two are always there.

I believe God put us all here on Earth for a reason; we all have a purpose in life. I think God put me on this Earth to make a difference even if it was to help just to one person. God brought me here to change someone's life with my words and actions. I can make an impact on someone without even knowing it. I think if everyone on Earth worked together to make the world a better place, we could do it! We all need to stop fighting and think positively. Actions can affect someone else. If I live my life in a positive way, other people will follow me and do the same! I would like the next 'trend' in life to be "always stay positive." No clothing trend can beat that motto, and it will never go 'out of style.' Aubrey made a difference while she was still with us, and if she could do all that while being that young, imagine what the world could do as a whole.