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A smile is the most important thing to put on in the morning. It can help you get through that downhill day you have, every once in a while. It can help boost up your confidence level for the big sports game that night. But most importantly that smile can put a smile on many people's faces that day and the next. You never quite see your work being done when you put that smile on in the morning. Once you share that magical gift that God gave you, your smile could be passed down to all of your family members in the morning. This then brings the smile to everyone that they come in contact with that day. If you can put a smile on someone's face today think about all the places it will go tomorrow.

The little things in life are what change the world. I tell myself every morning that today will be a great day. When I do that, a smile is put on my face to symbolize how I am feeling. I am a crazy and energetic person. Some people ask me where I get all of my energy. The truth is it comes from my smile. I have been experimenting with it for my whole life. The most valuable lesson I have learned from this is that when I smile, others smile. If I can spread the joy to one person a day then I can defiantly spread the joy to millions over my life time. That was the thought that challenged me to do more with my birthday then just celebrate me. I wanted to celebrate the gift that God gave me, my smile. I had done many service projects before like Christmas caroling at St. Joseph's Orphanage, organizing food at St. Leo's food pantry, serving dinner at the Drop Inn Center, to name a few. So I researched on the web and could only find places that either wanted donations or volunteers. I didn't have the money to make donations and I was too young to volunteer at most places. I wanted to do something different. Fortunately, the day I was researching, my mom's friend was at our house. We were talking about my birthday service project when she brought up the fact that cancer patients are always very cold when they get chemo. The fluid that runs into their port is cold and they have to take off their sweatshirts for the nurse to get to their port in the upper arm. A good friend of my mom's was experiencing just that, as she was diagnosed with leukemia 2 months earlier. At that moment I thought, what a better way than to make a sweatshirt with a slit in the upper, inside sleeve so they would not have to take the sweatshirt off. That was the birth of the Sharkey Sweatshirt.

A month later with 24 sweatshirts, two boxes of tie-dye, and ten 8th grade girls, we started the process of making the sweatshirts for cancer patients at the Dragon Fly Foundation. My mom and sister helped out too. We all tie-dyed two sweatshirts to represent all the colors of cancer. Then two months later we started to cut slits up the sleeve and sewed Velcro on to hold the slit together when the slit was not being used. Grandma inspired us by teaching us how to use the sewing machines, a skill I had not yet learned. Now we have 24 sweatshirts to give to people who need that magical smile.

Looking back on the experience, I now realize that I not only put smiles on the cancer patients faces but on my friends who put in the time and effort to help make the sweatshirts a success. When my friends put a smile on their face, it put a smile on mine and the chain starts once again. We do not think about those little things that can change someone's day, but those are the things that can change someone's life.