

Luke Sampson – St. Columban – Archbishop Moeller High School

As part of a Catholic family, changing the lives of others for the better and making a continuous impact on those around me is an attribute of a good Christian life. Ever since I was little, I have been trying to make a lasting impact on those people and family in my life in a positive way.

I have always been a little different from the other kids, because instead of playing football and basketball like the others, I liked to sing and act. Because of these differences, I experienced some challenges in my life, but they helped me shape up to be the person I am today. Having gone through those experiences, I have made it a crucial part of my life that I stay strong and help others through their hard times. At St. Columban, I am part of an anti-bullying program called Stand up, Speak up, and I have worked my best to help make the junior high a more bullying-free environment. This has become a great responsibility, because I am not only making speeches on anti-bullying, but others look to me as an advocate to stop the bullying. As a musician, actor, and singer, some may see me as different, but I used the difference to make myself a more independent and confident person.

I also enjoy music a lot and had always had an interest in music as a child. I use my talents as much as I can and try to volunteer at a program at St. Columban called Prime Timers. In Prime Timers, I play piano and sing for the elderly members who attend, and serve them dinner. I think that this is a great way to share your gifts while doing what you love and bringing happiness to others.

My family has also been a great part of my journey through life, because I know that in the challenges that I face, I can always look to them. My sister plays a very large part in service and has helped me get into a lot more service projects also. I regularly volunteer at St. Vincent De Paul in downtown Cincinnati on Bank Street. I help the less fortunate through the food pantry, so that they can get the necessary food for their family. I recently went on January sixteenth, and got to talk to the people more and hear their stories. I got to experience their struggles and have a better understanding for the pain they go through every day.

The involvement in service does not stop at my immediate family because over the Thanksgiving weekend, my cousins and my family made blankets, and went shopping for various supplies to drop off at the Mary Magdalene House in downtown Cincinnati. I was very touched at how much the supplies were needed, and how simple the goal of Mary Magdalene House is. Their goal is to give the less unfortunate means of warmth, and cleanliness, and while others may not think that it is significant, it is much appreciated. A simple shower or load of laundry can mean the world to a struggling person with no home.

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Throughout all of these places, I noticed a common theme. That theme was that we are all human. As humans, we are all called to serve one another no matter our situation. I am learning that I am blessed in my home and school and need to give back to others who are not as blessed.

Apart from the service requiring the less fortunate, I also enjoy doing service in my parish and community. I take part in the school masses by participating in the school bell choir. I have met a lot of my friends through bell choir, and it is one of my favorite things to do at church.

During mass, I take part in being an altar boy and being a Eucharistic Minister. One thing in particular that I enjoy about my school and parish are that the youth have an opportunity to get in touch with their faith. I think that the opportunity of being a Eucharistic Minister is an amazing way to get more familiar with the importance of the body and blood of Christ.

Service has been worked into my life ever since I can remember, and I know that it will continue to be a part of my life. I also know that with service, I can make a lasting impact on others' lives, just like Aubrey Rose. In small ways, we can make a huge difference. Thank you, and I hope that you consider my application.