

## **Mary Sebastian – St. Mary Hyde Park – St. Ursula Academy**

I recognize I have been blessed and I affect others around me by using my gifts and talents to serve others through volunteering, leadership, and in the way I treat people every day.

One way I serve others is through volunteering. For example, I use my talent as an Irish dancer every year to dance for residents at our local nursing home. Their smiles when they see me dance make me feel blessed I can use this talent to bring some joy to their lives. I also regularly use my abilities to serve at Walnut Hills Soup Kitchen. Last time I attended the kitchen, I handed out packaged peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to all those who needed food. It made me so happy to be making a difference in my community. Finally, I volunteer at my church as a server, cantor, a lector, and Eucharistic Minister at Mass.

Another way I serve others is through my leadership. One of the things I do to serve my school is that I am president of my entire grade school. As the president, I try to make good decisions to make our school and community a better place. For example, I led the effort to put on something called “Heart to Home”, where we bring in canned goods, soap, diapers, etc. for The Franciscan Daughters of Mary to provide to the poor. As an eighth grader, I also lead groups called “Saint Families”. We gather together the first Tuesday of every month. I help teach the children younger than me about important manners, many saints, and we have many activities having to do with being a Catholic/Christian family.

Finally, I serve others by the way I treat people every day. If someone in my class is ever feeling left out or is not being treated well, I try to comfort them and invite them to hang out with me. For example, when a new girl came to my class this year, I made sure to reach out, introduce myself and ask her if she wanted to sit by me at lunch. It was important to me she felt welcomed and part of our community at school. Every day, I seem to have a talent to recognize those who seem to be having troubles, and I always try to treat them with respect and kindness, especially when no one else does. I want to share my blessings with others and help make their lives a little better.

I know this scholarship is in memory of a beautiful girl who endured many challenges with a smile on her face, and who has had such a positive impact on so many people. My hope is I show some of that spirit in how I use my gifts and talents to serve others through volunteering, leadership, and how I treat others every day. Thank you for considering my application and the wonderful work you do to help others.