

Nick Shappelle – Our Lady of Victory – Elder High School

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I have been waiting a long time to experience Elder High School so I am very excited to start this experience in the fall. I enjoy doing service for other people. In first grade at Our Lady of Victory, I went on many field trips to Bayley Place to spend time with the elderly people. I remember walking into the building and seeing the smiles on their faces. We would play games such as Bingo with them and we made crafts with them. We also socialized with them and every once in a while we would have lunch with them. I didn't realize that this little two to three hour trip could make someone feel so good until I got older. I wish we could take these trips in eighth grade too because I enjoyed seeing the smiles on their faces and I would like to see that again.

During my time at Victory I worked with my mom at Market day. Market day was a fundraising event where people would purchase food online and come pick it up every month in the cafeteria. At Market Day I helped unload the truck, double check the order, put orders together, and help carry out orders to customer's cars. I have been helping at Market Day since I was in kindergarten. Market Day sold their company when I was in seventh grade so I haven't been able to help out this year. I enjoyed seeing the smiles on the customer's faces when I helped them carry out their boxes to their car.

Another service project that I have done was working in the gift shop at Good Samaritan hospital. I try to go there with my grandma as much as I can. We usually go over the summer and when I have a break during school. My grandma volunteers there two days every week. When I volunteer at the hospital, I unpack boxes, price items, restock shelves, run the cash register, and make deliveries to patient rooms. I like making deliveries to patient rooms because I like seeing their faces light up when they see the flowers or balloons. Being in a hospital can be depressing so this makes me happy when they smile. I know it made my grandma happy when I brought her a gift while she was in the hospital. My favorite floor to make a delivery to is the maternity floor because sometimes the mothers have their babies. I also like to volunteer at the hospital because the ladies that work/volunteer there are really nice and I help make their lives easier. Running the cash register is my favorite parts of volunteering at the hospital after making deliveries to patients. I have been volunteering at the hospital from the summer before I was in sixth grade until now. I plan on volunteering at the hospital when I'm in high school as well.

Over the summer before my eighth grade year, I volunteered at my local swim club's dive finals with some of my friends. We worked the front desk, ran the snack bar,

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brought water to the judges, helped set up, and helped clean up. We did this for eight hours for two days on the weekend. This made me feel good because I was helping people when there wasn't enough people to do it all without us. This year I have also helped out with our Santa Express. The Santa Express was an event for kids where they were able play games, make Christmas cards, decorate cookies, purchase small gifts for their family and get their picture taken with Santa. At the Santa Express, I worked at the game booth. It made me happy when I saw a kid win one of the games and win a prize. This year I have worked the concession stand at sporting events. I plan on continuing to do this and run the scoreboard when I am in high school.

Another service project that I participated in was making cookie bags for Our Daily Bread soup kitchen. I participated in this project when I was in seventh grade and eighth grade. The seventh graders brought in two to three boxes of candy canes and the eighth graders brought in two to three dozen cookies. I brought in seven to eight dozen cookies for this project. At school we put two cookies in a bag along with a candy cane during our religion class. Our goal was to use all of the candy canes and cookies for each religion class. We tied the bags with a ribbon and put a little decorated note on them saying "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Holidays". From my two years of doing this service project, we made about 1,500 cookie bags each time. Our teacher brought the cookie bags to Our Daily Bread at the end of the day. This made me feel good because we were giving treats to the people that don't always get to have nice treats on Christmas. The people that go to Our Daily Bread may only receive these kinds of treats once a year.

I also try to do random acts of kindness in my everyday life. I try to hold the door open for someone, pick up something that someone might have dropped, helping someone out with something, or making someone smile. I also try to have a joyful and caring attitude so others can feel happy and loved. I like to try to cheer people up at home and at school. This is a good attitude to have so that it can rub off on others and make them do random acts of kindness.

At the end of my sixth grade year, I was inducted into Our Lady of Victory's chapter of the National Junior Honors Society (NJHS). As a requirement for NJHS, we have to complete five hours of service each quarter to continue to be a member. Each

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quarter I have exceeded five hours. This year I am being a tour guide for our open house at Our Lady of Victory. At Elder, I know that they have clubs that revolve around service and I plan on joining some of these clubs. I also plan on doing other service projects that come up in the future.

Thank you for taking the time to read my scholarship application.