

Braedy Murphy – Our Lady of the Visitation – Elder High School

I transferred to Our Lady of Visitation from St. Dominic in 7th grade. When I transferred to Visitation I was overwhelmed by the size of the school and the number of students in each grade. Although I would only spend two years at Visitation, I wanted to find a way to leave my mark on the school and make a difference. I started with an area I was familiar with, sports. My goal was to be a role model and a positive influence on the team. I felt I had accomplished this goal by being voted captain of the football team by my peers and coaches after only playing on the team one year.

Although sports helped me make new friends and develop my leadership skills, sports weren't the only place I wanted to make a difference. Outside of sports, I have participated in a variety of service activities at school and at church. At church I am a server and Eucharistic minister during mass. Through these activities I have strengthened my relationship with God.

After school I participate in ACTS (Association of Catholic Teen Services). Through ACTS, along with a few other Visitation students, I have visited Three Rivers Nursing Home worked at the Soup Kitchen and tutored students at Roberts Academy. At the nursing home, I socialize with the residents. The residents are always happy to see us. Their smile shows me that I have made their day a little brighter. During the holidays, I worked at the Soup Kitchen where I served drinks to those in need. The people that I served were very appreciative of me being there. I have also gone to Roberts Academy where I tutored students that do not have the same privileges as me. I have also enjoyed some of the conversations I have had with these students. Before school, I tutor a fourth grade boy Mondays and Wednesdays. I am not only a tutor to him, but I am also a role model. I have watched him play soccer. He has also come to some of my football games. He also enjoys sitting by me on the bus ride home. I know I have made a difference in his life when I see him leave his seat on the bus to sit by me. After lunch, because our lunchroom is used as the gym, I help the custodians clean up and put away tables instead of participating in recess. They are always appreciative of my help because it allows them to quickly get the gym ready for the next class.

Outside of school, one service activity I participate in is volunteering with the Special Olympics. Every Saturday, I worked with the swimmers to help them train for the upcoming swim meet. I not only helped them with their swimming, but I also played games with them. When I would leave I always left with a smile on my face. Seeing the smile on their face always put a smile on mine.

Because of the great work the Aubrey Rose Foundation has done, my family volunteers to help them with one of their biggest fund raisers, the American Girl Fashion

Show. We volunteer to help direct cars where to park. This is just a little way we can help the foundation continue their goal of helping others.

In 2010 my grandpa had a kidney transplant which has limited him doing various outdoor chores. My grandpa always took pride in his yard and when he got sick the doctors would not allow him to do any yard work. In the spring and summer, I go to his house weekly to cut and weed-eat his grass, trim bushes, and mulch. Grandpa appreciates me doing the yard work he can no longer do. He also enjoys our talks about sports when I visit.

Both of my parents work and the expectation is that everyone pitches in to complete household chores. Some of the chores I am responsible for are taking out the garbage, doing the laundry, cleaning out the dishwasher, and taking care of the dog. These chores not only teach me responsibility, but help my parents keep the house in good order.

Mahatma Gandhi once said, "In a gentle way, you can shake the world." I am hoping that through all the little things I have done at Visitation, at home and in the community, that I have been able to "shake the world". I hope that when my name is mentioned, that I am remembered positively for the little things that I have done to leave my mark.