

Hello, my name is Bert Dole. I am an eighth grader at St. Catharine of Siena. I will be graduating this year and will be attending LaSalle High School.

I think that helping my family and friends and serving my community is very important. Here at St. Catharine I am a server. I do the 4 p.m. mass on the first Saturday of each month. I also am assigned to serve at our weekday masses or at our all school masses. I enjoy serving mass because I feel closer to God. I also volunteer to help with the concession stand, when I don't have a game of my own, such as basketball, football, volleyball and baseball. I mostly do the concession stand during boys and girls basketball, and boys and girls volleyball games when I don't have my own game. I also help at our Festival, especially my mom's booth. I love to help my mom, because she does a lot for me and I feel this is a way to help her.

I also volunteer at St. Ignatius. I work in the office at St. Ignatius on Sunday morning for their Parish School of Religion class from 7:30 to 10:30. I have been doing this for the past 5 years. During this time, I am a runner for the two people in charge and when the teachers need something copied, I am there to do it. This year I have been cutting out handprints and putting the beatitude sayings on them. I do a new beatitude saying for each month. The teachers then give these to their students. They each get two, one for themselves and one to give to a friend. I feel this is a good way to pass along God news to other people. I have also volunteered up at St. Ignatius for their "Breakfast with Santa". I have helped for the past 3 years and this year I helped set up the tables and chairs and helped decorate the hall the day before. On the day of "Breakfast with Santa", I am either helping with the craft stations, or I am in the room where they tell a Christmas story to them while the children are enjoying a cookie or cupcake. I really enjoy seeing all the little children and helping them learn about Jesus, which is the real reason we celebrate Christmas. I also work their festival at the "Split the Pot" booth. My aunt runs this booth and I tear the tickets that are sold for each drawing.

As for my family, my Grandma and Grandpa are getting up in their age, so I am over there a couple of times through the week and on the weekend to help them with things around the house. My Grandpa has showed me how to do many things that he learned when he was a kid. If my mom wanted something, I would tell her that I would build it for her. I would then go over to my grandpa and ask him to help me make it. I enjoy my grandpa showing me many things, because I don't have a dad to show me. My Grandpa and my Uncle Jim is like a dad to me. My Uncle Jim has shown me how to work on my mom's van. He has shown me how to change a tire, put air in a tire, change the oil and put on a new muffler. During the summer, I would cut

their grass and my aunts' grass. My grandparents' yard is very big but I love cutting their grass now because I weigh enough to use their riding lawn mower. Every year the day after Thanksgiving, most of my cousins and my sisters and some of my aunts and uncles would go over to their house and put up their Christmas decorations. We also put up Christmas decorations at my aunt's house she lives next door. We all love getting together and putting up the decorations even though they live on a dead end street and no one really sees them, I know that my grandparents enjoy us doing it because the love to see the smiles on all their grandkids every time they come over.

Now for my neighborhood, I cut grass at the house next to where I live. This house has been vacant for three years now and I have been cutting the grass so that our neighborhood looks nice and that it looks like someone is living there. During the winter, when it snows, I love to be out in the snow and I go around the neighborhood and shovel people's driveways and sidewalks. I know all the older neighbors like this, because they always say you really don't have to do it because I am not going anywhere, but I know people come to visit them and I don't want them to fall.

I also delivery the Western Hills Press every Wednesday and collect every month. When I deliver the paper, I make sure they are on every porch right by their door so that they can see it when the walk out. I enjoy doing this not just for the pay but also for the exercise, seeing, and talking to them when I go to collect.

I have volunteered a couple of times with my sister, who is a previous recipient. I have volunteered by walking in the Harvest Home Parade, making box lunches for the American Girl Fashion show last year. I have also worked on putting labels on the baby bottles which was given to people you needed them and to help pass the word about the Foundation. I helped at the bike races one year.

I know the things I have done might not seem like a lot, but I hope they made an impact on people lives, just as Aubrey had in her short time here on earth. I enjoy volunteering and helping others and I will continue to do it as long as I am able. Let us all continue to make a difference in peoples lives.

Bert Dole