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I have tried to make a positive difference in the lives of people around me. I have done this through volunteering to help others through many service activities. One of my most favorite service activities was volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House. The kids were very sick and were staying there while they were being treated for their illness. I made them some Rice Crispy treats and when I imagined the children smiling as they grabbed for one, I felt amazingly good inside. It made me feel great and I wanted to do more.

I also volunteered to carry boxes full of food for Thanksgiving to cars for the less fortunate. I was amazed to see such a long line of people waiting for their boxes. When I brought their boxes out to them, they were so happy and very nice to me. It really made me appreciate how much I have and made me feel good to help.

Another service I have done helped people in Haiti. I packed medicine for them for 2 hours. Although I did not get to see the looks on their faces, I know I helped plenty of people feel better. Helping others in great need is very satisfying.

A very special service activity I performed, took place through-out Lent last year. My family made calendars and picked something that was a challenge to give up for Lent. Every day that we kept our Lenten promise we marked an X on our calendar. At the end of Lent we counted all the X's and my parents gave us a dollar for every X to give to the charity we chose. I was excited because there are a lot of people in my family and we were able to raise a lot of money. We gave the money to someone who had a lot of hospital bills. It was hard sometimes to stick to my promise, but it was worth it!

Doing things to help others can also help you get to know others better. For example, my grandmother had just gotten out of a rehab center because of her broken hip last May. I went to her house every Monday morning in the Summer to play cards with her and cut her grass. As I would play cards with her I got to know so much about her. Before then I never really talked to her much. Now, I like to joke around with her and have a conversation with her. Helping others can create bonds with others that you never thought you could have.

I have been touched by the hearts of many through my service activities. Volunteering is one of the best things I have done for others and for myself. Although it is time consuming it is well worth a chunk of my day. Getting to know people has helped me with social skills and to realize the gifts I have to give. I hope I have made a positive difference for others around me. I know that helping others has made a big difference in my life as well.

