

Aubrey Rose Scholarship

I am excited to be starting my new journey at Ursuline Academy this fall! I hope that in some small way I have touched the lives of the people at St. Michael School and my community through my service to others.

When I was in the fourth grade, one of my friends was growing her hair really long and I thought that I would try that too to see what I would look like with long hair. After a very long time, my hair finally grew to my waist. I read in an American Girl Magazine about three girls who grew their hair out and donated it to Locks of Love. I asked my mom if I could do that and she agreed. As we were looking up requirements, we read about Pantene's Beautiful Lengths. This organization donates free wigs to women who have lost their hair due to chemo therapy. I thought that this would be really neat to help women with cancer, because I never got to meet either of my grandmas who died of cancer. My grandma on my dad's side of the family died before I was born, and my grandma on my mom's side died when I was a baby. I have now donated my hair three times and I am continuing to grow it out to help make a difference in the lives of the many women with cancer.

The summer of 2005 was when Hurricane Katrina hit the south. Many people lost everything and had nothing to start building a new home or get the medical help they needed. The American Red Cross was looking for money, medical supplies, food, clothing, and just about anything to help the victims. Later that month, I wanted to have a lemonade stand. At first I wanted the money for me, and then I thought about all of the people who had lost everything and needed the money a lot more than I did. All of the money that I made was going to be sent to the Red Cross to help the hurricane victims. I made big posters, and set up a table with regular and pink lemonade. It was a really hot summer day and at first nobody was coming. A little bit later, more and more people were coming, and even though we only charged 50 cents, there were some people who gave us 20 dollars for a small cup of lemonade just because they liked the idea so much! We ended up making 125 dollars, and then my dad's workplace matched the amount for a total of 250 dollars that we gave to the Red Cross to help make a difference in the lives of the people affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Another one of my favorite places to make a difference is at the Ronald McDonald House. When I was in the first grade, I went with my Girl Scout troop to make a dinner for the residents there. They were very appreciative and thanked us over

and over for the home cooked meal. For many years, I've also been collecting pop tabs to donate for their fundraising efforts. At every family party, I sit out a cup for pop tabs and I keep adding them to my collection to donate to help the people there. When I turned thirteen, I got a sewing machine for my birthday and learned to sew. I read in an American Girl Magazine that there was a girl who made pillowcases for children in the hospital. I decided that I wanted to do that and then donate them to the Ronald McDonald House so that the children would have something special to call their own while they are far away from home. So far, I've sewn about 20 colorful pillowcases. Recently I started visiting with my dog that is trained to be a pet therapy dog. The children laughed and played and forgot about being sick for a while. Their parents thanked me for taking the time to visit. Ronald McDonald House is one of my favorite places to volunteer and I want to continue to make a difference in the lives of the families who come from all over the world.

Every year, my family shops for groceries, gifts, and clothing to give to a needy family at Christmas. We spend hours looking for the perfect gifts and wrapping them for the children who might not be getting anything for Christmas. What better way to celebrate the birthday of Jesus than giving gifts to people less fortunate to me. For me, this is what Christmas is all about. I never forget the many smiles that we get when we deliver the gifts and I know that I've made a difference in someone's life.

Project Linus works to provide special blankets for children in the hospital. Last year, I worked with my family to make eight blankets to donate for this cause. In December, my Confirmation sponsor and I made three more blankets to donate to Project Linus. I hope they will help warm the heart of a sick child.

In my neighborhood and church community, I also work to make a difference. I frequently volunteer as a server at mass at St. Michael's, and in the summer I work at the Parish Festival. When it snows in the winter, I shovel the driveway of an elderly neighbor who is always very appreciative of this act of kindness. In memory of my grandmas, I walk the Relay for Life fundraiser, working to make a difference by raising money to put an end to cancer.

I love doing volunteer work because I know that I am making a difference in the lives of many people. It makes me a better person and I hope that it brings happiness to those around me!