

Jenna Kohler
Our Lady of Victory School

As an eighth grader I look back at all the opportunities that I have had that affected the lives of people around me. Now that I will be attending Seton High School I look forward to new experiences and many more opportunities to help others. As a Catholic, my faith has taught me to serve others and extend my kindness to all those in need.

To extend my gratefulness, my family and I participate in several charitable acts. One thing that we have done for the past five years is organizing a “Sock and Soap Drive.” I pass out flyers to the neighbors, requesting socks and soap for the City Gospel Mission. As we collect the items every year it never ceases to amaze me how generous our neighbors have been. This gives me great pride for my community. We then deliver the items to the City Gospel Mission where the people who live there are very thankful.

Another charitable act I participate in is during the Christmas season. My family and I adopt two less fortunate families and buy all their Christmas gifts for them. Also, with the Saint Vincent de Paul Society I deliver groceries to needy families. I am so touched that just ten minutes away from my home there are so many people out there that need things that I sometimes take for granted. I am humbled by these experiences every year.

God has blessed us in many ways and made us different for a reason. I see this first hand in my extended family. I have twenty-five cousins under the age of sixteen and have learned to accept them all for who they are, two of whom have special needs. My fifteen year old cousin, Amos, has a social disorder that has not been diagnosed yet. He struggles to make friends and keep his grades high. I see his frustration when playing a simple card game and I am compassionate towards him. I strive to make him feel included when I see he is challenged.

My other cousin, Carson, who is ten years old has Asperger's disorder which is a type of Autism. He is a very loving and kind person who deserves to be treated like any other kid. As a matter of fact, at times I forget he has special needs. My Aunt Katie is always asking us to pray for him so that he can learn to adjust to his disability and be accepted for who God has made him to be. I am always there to help Carson with a smile of positive reinforcement. Without Carson and Amos in our family the Christian spirit wouldn't be the same. They provide a sense of understanding to our family which makes me a more loving and accepting person.

As I enter my high school career, I anticipate many more life changing experiences where I can help people in my new environment. God has blessed me with a great family and wonderful friends who have taught me to extend my kindness each and every day. I cannot wait to be a positive role model for all those who surround me.