

Sara Roell – St. John the Baptist Harrison – McAuley High School

My name is Sara Roell, and I attend Saint John the Baptist School in Harrison, Ohio. I have been accepted with distinction to McAuley High School, Mother of Mercy High School, St. Ursula Academy, and Oldenburg Academy. I am excited to say that I will be attending McAuley High School in the fall. While still maintaining my grades, I hope to also take part in many service projects at McAuley. To me, helping someone else isn't only a gift to them, but it's also a gift to me. Doing a small deed for someone else means the world to them. When I help someone, I realize how lucky I am to have a home and a loving family.

My Girl Scout troop and I have gone to Matthew 25 Ministries twice to help pack care packages and fold t-shirts to send to 3rd world countries. It is a life-changing experience to see how the people in these countries live and how grateful they are for the things that we use every day. I also witnessed this kind of poverty at the Mary Magdalen House. As a service project for the Marian Award (an award focusing on Mary, the Mother of God), a group of my friends and I toured the Mary Magdalen House downtown. My school has collected many items for Mary Magdalen House each year, and seeing the people who receive them is such a blessing to me. It is also hard to imagine having to live not knowing where you'll end up staying the next night. I can't wait to go back and volunteer. It is a great way to live out Jesus's mission and help other people.

I also love helping children. For eight years my mom had taught Sunday school to preschoolers at our church. I started out as one of those preschoolers, but I couldn't wait to help her when I was older. When I finally got to help, I shared my love for Jesus with the kids by doing crafts, telling stories, and playing games.

Another way that I make an impact in my community and church is by volunteering at Vacation Bible School. I have volunteered since I was in fifth grade, but have also done a lot of the preparation work, since my mom is in charge of it. When I help prepare for VBS, I try my best to help come up with ideas that younger kids will like. The bible stories that we do are chosen carefully so that the kids will learn an important lesson from them, and have an impact on their life. When it comes to actually being at VBS, I think that I have a good impact on what the children do. For the past few years, I have been in charge of the music which involves teaching kids songs and motions for their concert at the end of the week. It is a great way for the kids and me to express our love for God. They go by my example and what I teach them, so I have to be a good role model. I hope that when younger kids see how much I enjoy volunteering, they will want to do it too when they're older. I have already seen some kids come back to volunteer the next year. I know I have made an impact on someone when they go home and do a "mini" concert for their parents with the songs and motions

I have taught them or when they recognize me and say "hi". I know that I must have done something to make them remember me. I feel like a teacher that showed them how to do their math facts- something they always remember now.

I also volunteer at my grandma's Vacation Bible School later in the summer. Her parish is very small, so it is the same thirty or so kids who come each year. When I come back each year to teach music at their VBS, the kids recognize me. They are eager to learn the new songs for that year. I know that when I help my grandma prepare for each day, she is very thankful. I really want to help her, because she works so hard and does so much for my family, her parish, and me. At the beginning of the week, she is always so nervous, and I can tell how appreciative she is that I am there to write nametags or make sample crafts.

Every service project I do is centered around Jesus Christ. Every act of love is done out of love for God. Each time I participate, I grow closer to God and I hope that my good-will will impact others and inspire them to be more like Jesus.