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“Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love,” Mother Teresa once said. Throughout my life, I have done many little things to turn frowns upside down! I have participated in many services within my community including: Relay for Life, helping the elderly at WHRV, and the Bethany House. I’ve volunteered at The Ronald McDonald House several times, Children’s Hospital, Our Daily Bread, MRDD, St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry and many others.

One year, I asked a little girl what she wanted for Christmas. She replied, “All I want for Christmas are some nice puzzles and a reindeer with a red nose. Just like Rudolph!” This touched my heart. Knowing she is an unfortunate, sweet girl, she didn’t ask for an ipod or a trampoline, just a little reindeer, something so small to keep her company. I rummaged through my bucket full of stuffed animals to see what I could find. When I placed the fluffy animal in her soft hands, her face lit up like Rudolph’s nose! It made me cry to see her so happy!

In 2007, my Aunt Nancy went up to the Lord in heaven. At that time, I was 7 years old. When she was fighting for the cure, I asked my mom, “Why did Aunt Nancy lose all her hair?” She told me why but said they were purchasing a wig for her to make her happy. I realized I could donate my hair to make a wig and build confidence in another girl with a dream! I let my hair grow out for about a year. When it was time to cut it all off.... Snip! Snip! Snip! I had donated 10 inches to the Locks of Love Organization. I received a letter that said I put a smile across a little girls face!

There is one major incident that happened in my family that ripped a hole in my heart. One ordinary evening, on July 31, 2007, my two cousins, Jake and Sydney Wittich, joined the Lord in heaven. Since then, their dad Scott, and their two older sisters, Katie and Lindsey, felt the need to move on. Wanting them never to be forgotten, they organized a foundation called, “From Our Angels to Yours”. While all this was going on, I asked Katie and Lindsey what I could do to help. They organized an event at the Ronald McDonald House where they did a craft with the children staying there. I went along and helped the kids paint pots and plant a beautiful flower. We put many smiles across the children’s faces as they smeared paint all over their pots! While I was there, Scott took us up to a room where parents with sick children find comfort from our angels, Jake and Sydney.

Just like John Holmes said, “There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up.”