

## **Alexis Fee- Summit Country Day School- Summit Country Day School**

Fairness, kindness, and dignity.

Every Monday morning, the students at the Summit Country Day School recite a character pledge. Every Monday morning I say, "I will treat others with fairness, kindness, and dignity." Reciting those words at the beginning of the week really helps me to take my words and put them into actions, not just in school but in the community and at home.

School is a place of learning, teaching, and helping. My friends at school treat me with fairness, kindness, and dignity. Their actions towards me make me act that way towards others. In particular, there is a girl at my school who is ignored, teased and left out. My classmates judge her because of her skinny appearance, how she acts, and what she does. They feel that she doesn't belong with their group of friends because they fear that they will make themselves look bad. Knowing that what they do to her is not right, I try to step in. Her once frowning face lights up with a smile from ear to ear when I approach her. Her face changing like that makes me feel like I have made her day and that makes me feel more confident and happy.

The eighth graders at our school always take a trip to Washington DC. While writing the list of roommates that I wanted, I had a feeling that her name would not be written down by anyone. I put down her name knowing that it would make her happy, but at the same time, it might affect what my friends think of me. The girl would probably walk around with me, causing my other friends to not want to walk with me. In the end,

she did become my roommate and was very happy. Her smile put a smile on my face. I knew that the girl was happy and that made me happy.

Also at school, I just became a Eucharistic Minister. Even though I only serve every other week, I wish it was every week. Participating in mass more fully makes me feel that God is proud of me. Helping during the mass makes me feel like I am making a difference even though it is a very small difference.

In my community, I try to make a difference in every way I can. I really enjoy serving the homeless every couple of months. My grandparents take me and my brother or sister downtown to Tender Mercies or City Gospel Mission. We sometimes make over eighty sandwiches and take chips, fruit, and cookies down to give them. I enjoy saying hello to the people and asking them how their day is and putting a smile on their faces. One day, I remember bringing little Easter Eggs full of candy to give the children. That was the first time I ever served and that experience made me feel happy and proud. One experience I also really enjoyed was helping out with a Vacation Bible School and my Church. It was so fun to help out with the children and be the assistant leader of my group. I enjoyed walking around with the children and helping them with arts and crafts, bible reading, and outside activities. I felt like I really bonded with them in the five days I was there. It is definitely something I want to do again.

All my life I have grown up in an environment where I was taught about kindness and respect. I have learned that acting with kindness and respect not only makes others happy, but it makes me happy, and you cannot buy that kind of happiness.