

## **Kate Sebastian-St. Mary's School-St. Ursula High School**

I have made a difference in the lives of those around me in many ways. Three ways I do so are by stepping up as a leader, sharing my gift of music, and staying positive even when things are difficult.

Each day, I impact those around me by stepping up as a leader. One way I do this is by leading in my school community. I have been on Student Council in the past, and have helped set up many fundraisers like a Hot Chocolate Stand on the school playground that directly benefited charities such as the Make-A-Wish-Foundation. I even helped set up a fundraiser in which we sponsored two students to go to school in Uganda for a whole year. Another way I step up as a leader is by leading in my spiritual community. In addition to being a Eucharistic Minister, cantor, reader, and server at Mass, I also took part in a religious retreat called Ignite for middle school students. At Ignite, we learned how to grow closer to God, and find how we can see him in our everyday lives.

Another way I impact others is by sharing my gift of music. One way I do this is by singing for residents in nursing homes. Every year, I visit St. Margaret Hall Nursing Home. Many residents enjoy when I sing, and my brother brings his ukulele while I sing fun, uplifting songs that make them smile. I also love to pray with them at their chapel when I visit. Another way I share my gift is by singing at Mass. I love to cantor at Mass because it is like sharing the Word of God in a different way. It makes me very satisfied that I use my talent to please God.

The last way I impact others is by being positive even when it is very difficult. I realize I have been blessed with in my life. I may not be a millionaire, but I have a spacious home, two kind siblings, two wonderful parents, food and drink whenever I am hungry, and lots more. Even if I am sad when something difficult happens to me, I keep a smile on my face because I realize how blessed I really am. Another way I stay positive is by being strong whenever I visit Children's Hospital. I have many health concerns, including a congenital heart defect, and sometimes I have to do tests that are not only hard, but can also be painful. However I always keep a strong smile because I realize that the other children at the hospital have it more difficult than me and that I truly am blessed to be able to live my life without daily hospital visits.

Every day, I try to make a difference in every person I meet. I continue to do this by stepping forward as a leader, sharing my gift of music, and staying positive even when it is difficult.