

## Sam Ross--St. Bernard of Clairvaux-- LaSalle High School

Making a difference in the lives of others is such a great thing, and there is no word to describe the type of feeling you get when you succeed in changing a life. As a Christian individual, I feel it is my duty to make sure that everyone is inspired by people making a difference. Over many years, I have noticed that I have affected others in three ways. First, I have made a difference in others' lives that need help the most. Next, I have affected many students' lives at my grade school. Finally, I have changed lives at my home. Here is how I have made a difference in others lives' as Aubrey did. When I began to affect other peoples lives, I knew I wanted to do more so I did three major acts to help others. First, I went to St. Vincent DePaul to work and help people get food for their families. While volunteering, I got a chance to talk to many people and really understand who they were as individuals. At the end of the day, I thought to myself that I just affected many peoples lives, and I had fun doing it . Second, I went to Matthew 25: Ministries and volunteered to help the people who work there. At Matthew 25, I folded baby diapers and was kind of confused on why I was doing this. I later learned that all those diapers would be going to Africa to help expecting mothers. I was just so happy that I could be a help others not just in the U.S. but also in Africa. Finally, I affected a life that I knew very well. That person was my fifth grade teacher, Mrs. Kersey, who had suffered a stroke while climbing a mountain raising money for a disease. I knew I had to help as others were, too. What I did was join others raising money for her and try to get her back to the U.S. After many weeks, we finally raised enough money for her to come home. Even though she is still recovering, I know that I had made a difference in a small way. That is how I have made a difference in other people's lives around me.

I know that since I am an eighth grader, little kids look up to me as a role model, so I thought that I should affect their lives in a good way. First, what I did was to make everyone feel welcome at our school. For instance, I was helping kindergarteners with reading, and there was a kid who never got a turn to read because others were not giving him a chance so I went over to the kids and told them to let him read because it was the right thing to do, and they did. I have been making a difference at school by setting good examples to others in my class. For example, a guy in my class has been bullied by another kid, and I saw it hurt him. I knew that it had to stop, so in front of all my friends, I stood up to the bully and told him to stop. Since then that bully has stopped. Finally, a way I have affected my school was by encouraging others to do good. I enjoy to encourage others to do the best at everything and never give up on dreams, and I have noticed that others are actually doing it and seem to be enjoying it. That is how I have affected people at my school.

Home is a place where you spend most of your time with your family and is a great place to affect my family. I have inspired my family by showing how to be a good Catholic and demonstrate true care to the faith. For instance, at my house it is hard to get up out of bed, but we have to go to church. I try to show excitement about going to church, and it has made an impact in my family. I have a younger sister, and she looks up to me. I try to encourage her to set goals for herself in many ways. A goal I have

encouraged was to get good grades, and I am happy to say she has gotten good grades. Finally, I have affected my family by trying to bond more as a family and do things that bring us closer together. For example, we have gone to the park to all play sports and to talk and we have now become a well bonded family. That is how I have affected my family.

When I heard that I could put all the ways I have affected others into words, I was so excited. I can see that making a difference in others lives is fun and life changing. Also, I am proud that I have not just affected lives that need it the most, but also the lives that I care about the most, like my family and friends and even teachers. I have heard that for the amount of time that Aubrey had on this Earth, she made a difference that could change the world. I hope I can continue to make a difference and affect others lives