

Taylor Woodward - St Aloysius Gonzaga - Mother of Mercy

My name is Taylor Woodward and I am currently an 8th grader at St AL's and planning on attending Mother of Mercy High School next school year. I have had the opportunity to affect others in different way. For the past 3 summers I have volunteered at Whitewater Crossing Church in Cleves with their Bible School as well as Sprout program. While working with the Bible School I worked with 4 and 5 year old children as a group aid. I was able help the children with the different activities that they were involved in. I taught them prayers, Bible verses, songs, arts and crafts, games and other activities.

Also, at Whitewater crossing I helped with the Sprout program, which is a program that brings Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade students from the local elementary school in for 6 sessions. I worked with the kids on a Bible school program in the morning and then after lunch the students were tutored by a teacher in the area of math and reading. I was able to assist them in the morning activities which consisted of learning songs, play games, and learn Bible verses and other activities. In the afternoon I helped the kids with their math or reading that the teacher was teaching that day.

I have also had the opportunity to volunteer with individuals with Autism in the past in a program that the Clippard YMCA used to put on. Individuals with Autism and their families were invited to the YMCA after it was closed and they could do activities in the gym or swim in the pool. Each event had a different theme and the activities were around that theme. I would assist in the gym with whatever activities were going on. I worked with individuals with autism as well as their families. They would have games and crafts set up in the gym and even the Easter Bunny and Santa near the holidays. My mother works with individual with disabilities and whenever she needs help with an event I try to help her out. I have had the chance to meet some kids with disabilities that I can call friends now.

Cornerstone Daycare was another place I have had the chance to volunteer. I went in the summer and would work with the 2 and 3 year olds. I went on field trips with them as well as playing games, reading books and helping with lunches.

My brother and I also for two Christmas have made homemade Christmas cards for people who lived in the nursing home. We would make the cards and take them to the home and pass them out to the people who lived there.

I have been involved in Girls Scouts since I was in the 2nd grade and had the opportunities to different types of service work. We worked on gardening at a church, taking food to the poor, helping organize the church library and helping the younger

scout troops with their badge work. While also at St AL's I have had the chance to help a needy family in the 7th and 8th grade. By collecting items they needed and presented them to the family as a class. St AL's also has given me the chance to help with the instructional volleyball program for K-2. We help the boys and girls learn how to play volleyball and the skills they need.

I truly enjoy giving back to the community and my school. I like to work with young children, so I can teach them to grow to the best they can be. I plan to join the key club and other service clubs at Mother of Mercy so I can continue to give back.

Thanks so much for the chance to share what I have done to help my school and community.

Sincerely,

Taylor Woodward