

## Aubrey Rose Scholarship

Abby Schultz  
St. Cecilia School

I have never met Aubrey Rose Hollenkamp but I can say that she has made an impact on my life through the stories that her family shares. She only lived for a short time because of a heart condition that she had. Even in her short time on earth, Aubrey's story impacted my life by realizing that God has a plan for all of us. We might not like what is happening, but we keep a smile on our face because we trust God. Through Aubrey's story I have realized that we should all be kind to one another and use the graces that God gave us to make the world a better place to live.

I want to live as happily as Aubrey lived. I want to make people feel good when they see me. When I see that someone is upset or stressed, I try to do my best to be a caring friend and help them solve the situation that is bothering them. I know that people can be cruel and every action or words we use can change someone's life in one way or another. For several years and even this year I have had classmates that have not been kind to me and have done things that have made me upset. They have created group chats about me, they have laughed and mocked me and would do things on purpose that they know makes me feel bad. These are girls that I have to sit next to everyday in school and play sports with so being mad or upset does not help. I have always tried to look past those days by smiling anyway even when it was not easy to do so. Through this experience I have learned that maybe something as small as a smile can brighten someone's day. You never know what they might be going through.

When I was seven years old, my friend and I participated in the Aubrey Rose American Girl Fashion Show. It was an amazing experience for both of us. We had to go to an audition and photo shoots, we tried on different outfits, and participated in the fashion show. I made a lot

friends that day too. The volunteers were kind to help all of us girls into our outfits, smiling, and helping the little ones with their outfits too. I was one of the older girls so I was able to help the volunteers keep the little kids quiet by playing with them and helping them with their dolls they were going to carry. This experience was not only fun because of the things we got to do, but we knew that by being there we were helping to raise money for the Aubrey Rose Foundation which helps kids all over the world. Just knowing that we were helping them was a great feeling for my friend and me.

I spend a lot of my time volunteering for my school and church because I know I'm making a difference and that makes me proud of what I am doing. I spend time working at our festival, preparing for dances or setting up for sporting events. The 7/8 graders in our school help read books to the Kindergartners and help them learn how to participate in Mass every week. This is something special for me because I know I'm doing something good for someone else and I love helping little kids! When I was in the sixth grade I was awarded our school's Crusader Award for being a helping hand in the classroom and for keeping good grades all year long. I think a lot of the kids in my class deserved this award so it was an honor that my teacher chose me.

Outside of school I am able to help my mom volunteer at the Children's Home by visiting the children and teaching them about God. The little kids that live there don't have a mom or dad in their life and so any chance that I can go to brighten their day, I try to do it. We make crafts with them, fix them special treats, have Easter egg hunts, and one time we even put on a whole carnival for them! Even though this made them happy, it made me feel good too. We also spend time at the soup kitchen in Newport by helping organize a dinner for the needy and serving the food to them. The homeless always come in with a smile on their face and are always thankful

that we are there to help them. God made us to do good things for each other and being there reminds me of why we should listen to him.

In addition to volunteering, I have also donated my hair twice. I did this because the Aubrey Rose Foundation inspired me to do so. I wanted to help make wigs for the children who needed them. Donating my hair made me feel special, and I'm sure it made someone else feel just as special.

All of these opportunities that I have been able to be a part of have taught me why it is important to make a positive impact in my community. I think it's important that we make the right choices by being nice to each other by the way we talk and by the way we act. Life isn't always easy. People can be mean and even cruel for no reason, but it's the way we react to the situation that makes the difference. Because of Aubrey Rose Hollenkamp, I am a better person by learning to smile in all situations and by helping others smile, too.