

Aleia Samuels-Corryville Catholic-Ursuline Academy

During Aubrey's three short years of life, she affected many people with her will to live and her beautiful smile. Even after becoming an "Angel" she is still having a positive impact on the lives of many people through her foundation. Looking at how she affected so many people made me ask the question, how do I affect people? That is the question that was presented to me and when I began to think, I wondered what I really did. I thought to myself, were there really things that I did that affected the people around me. So to help me write this essay I had to battle with my inner self on how I really connected with the people around me. So, let's begin with the beginning of my life. My family has been dealt many challenging issues that many people would not have to deal with. My great uncles were both born with intellectual disabilities. One had a form of autism and the other had a form of Down syndrome. As a little kid, I realized that my great uncles needed my assistance. My mom and grandma explained to me that at even at a young age, I went out of my way to help them. I always made sure that they had snacks just like I did. I always made sure that they were in the right places and doing the right thing. My Uncle Jerome became my best friend when I was young and I always included him in everything. When he passed away, I struggled because I had lost my best friend. I think still to this day that he is watching over me and is my inner voice reminding me to be all that I can be and to help anyone that needs help.

Besides my uncles, I have had the privilege of helping to take care of my great-grandmother who lives with us. She is 93 years old and has dementia. I feel that I am obligated to help her any way that I can because she had been so good to me in the past. She has not only been influential in helping me to be the student that I am and but also helped me to become the young lady that I am. She told me many times how putting a smile on someone's face is important because it can help change their lives. So I have taken that to heart and I really try and follow in her footsteps by doing as much as I can.

My family has shown me the importance of believing in God so that you can get through anything. They demonstrated to me that it is important to continue to fight and not give up. My family does a lot for me and I am really thankful to have them so I try and help when I can. When my mom and grandma are sick, I try and get what they need like tea or soup. I usually help the most when it comes to my mom losing the remote and my grandma not being able to work the television. I help take out the recycling and I do most of the laundry. I am thankful my family is showing the importance of caring and giving back. With them teaching me responsibility at an early age at home, I have been able to take this with me and use it in school and in the community.

I am currently an 8th grade student at Corryville Catholic Elementary school. I have attended this school for over 11 years. I started here in preschool and since the beginning I have strived to be the very best. Education is important to me so I have endeavored to do my very best by becoming a leader and getting involved in as many things as possible. I have maintained my grades so I've been on the A/B honor roll for

Aleia Samuels- Corryville Catholic- Ursuline Academy

the last five straight years. This has allowed me to be a good person for not only to my classmates but to my teachers and principal. When my principal needed help last summer, she phoned me. My friend and I spent days at school cleaning and preparing classrooms for the new school year. I feel it is important to always help the ones around you. There is nothing too big or too small that I assist with- homework or even running an errand for a teacher. There was also one day when a couple of friends from school and I went and made boxes of food for the homeless and gave them out. I was really satisfied when I saw the smiles on the people's faces after we gave them the food. It made me really happy.

At Corryville, I have tried to really give back to the school by participating in as many activities possible. Participating in these activities I felt would allow me to help out as many people as possible in our school. I have been in Leadership Scholars, Student Health Council, Spanish Club, Big Sister Little Sister program, Girls on the Run, 3D Printer Club, "It's Academic" Club, and I have played on the volleyball team. Within all these I have tried to be the best that I can be. I take the most pride in being in Student Health Council and the Big Sister Little Sister Program. Student Health Council is so important to so many people including the students at my school as well as their families. Teaching families the importance of being healthy is very important because I want everyone to live as long as possible. I am thankful for the school introducing me to the Big Sister Little Sister program because I was able to meet a wonderful young lady named Allison who has been by my side for the last 3 years. She has been a role model showing me the importance of giving her time to me and others as well. She has been there to give me advice and help me with my homework. She has taken me out in the community to participate in community service events. Having her as a role model and watching how she lives is just another reason that I have felt it to be important to help others. I am so thankful for how she has affected my life and would love to give a little bit of that to the others around me.

In writing this essay I realized that I affect more people than I really thought. I am glad that I have important people in my life that have been my role models. My family, my school, and Allison have supported me in endless ways. As I grow older, I plan to use these lessons to help people because I want to and it is the right thing to do. I also just like to help people even if they just need help putting a smile on their face. I want to be the person that people can count on and the person people come to for help. It's really nice for me to know that I am the person that someone wants to come to for anything. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to write this essay and being considered for this scholarship.