

Emily Brennen - St. Pius X - St. Henry District High School

“How do you sense God is calling you to make the world a better place?” (Matthew Kelly). We all have been designed with a special purpose by God. Every day, people receive a calling from God to help the less fortunate. Some turn down the calling and it goes unnoticed. Others follow their calling by sharing their talents and helping the needy. I received that call from God and knew that it was my purpose to help others. Like Jesus says, we are all God’s children and we should help one another. Now, I make it my mission to volunteer as often as possible so that I can share my talents and gifts with others. Just as Aubrey positively affected the people around her with her will to live and her beautiful smile, I also want to be a positive influence in my home, at St. Pius and in my community.

My name is Emily Brennen and I’m an 8th grader at St. Pius X School. I play soccer, volleyball and softball, and I used to run track and play basketball. I am a member of St. Pius’ Youth Group and St. Timothy’s Challenge group. I participate in outreach programs every month with the Challenge group, and we do things like make care packages and fleece blankets, visit nursing homes and the pregnancy center, and we visited the Florence fire and police departments to thank them for their service. I’m also a member of the St. Pius Art Club and Book Club, and I have participated in Choir, Drama, Academic Team and the ski club. I also participated in Y Disciple with a group of my friends and we loved it so much that we are going to start up again. In this group, we learned about our faith through videos and discussions.

My family, friends and neighbors are all special to me, and I try to help them as much as possible. I help my mom with chores around the house, such as cooking and cleaning, to help lighten the load since she works full time and is always on the run, taking my sister and me to our activities. I help my dad by cutting our grass and shoveling the driveway when it snows. I also help my family by mowing the lawn at my grandparent’s apartment, and by helping my grandma clean her house. I babysit my cousins and my neighbor’s children, without being paid, when my aunt and neighbor have to run errands. I also shovel my neighbors’ driveways when it snows and rake their leaves when they are too busy to do it themselves. My mom always tells me how lucky she is that I’m such a big help to her and everyone else.

In addition to setting a good example at home, I also do my best to be a good student and positive role model at school and church. I always try to be very positive and smile all the time. You never know when your smile will help brighten someone’s day. My teachers always tell me that they love my smile and positive attitude. I like to do a lot at school to help out. I volunteer to work at the door and in the concession stand for the Athletic Association during the volleyball and basketball seasons. I’m an altar server for school masses, Sunday mass and funerals, and I’ve also volunteered to help out at funeral receptions with the bereavement committee. I volunteer through the Youth Group to babysit younger children during the Lenten series talks at church, and I volunteer at the Fish Frys during Lent. Over the summer, I volunteer to be a buddy at St. Pius’ and St. Timothy’s vacation bible schools. I love being with children and enjoy helping them get the most out of their experience. Besides helping at vacation bible school, I stay busy over the summer by helping set up, work at, and clean up the St. Pius X festival, and by working in the Challenge booth at St. Timothy’s Oktoberfest. One

Emily Brennen - St. Pius X - St. Henry District High School, page 2 of 2

of the most impactful volunteer moments for me was when I helped pack backpacks full of school supplies for less fortunate children in the Greater Cincinnati area. This impacted me, knowing that without this help, those children wouldn't have had any school supplies. It's amazing how even the little things make such a big difference. I like to volunteer as often as possible, and I do this while keeping up my good grades. Maintaining my good grades is always a top priority for me.

Besides helping at home, school and church, I enjoy volunteering in the community and spending time with others. Care Mission is a community-operated food pantry which provides care and support to those in need, and on the first and third Saturday of the month, my mom, sister and I help sort and straighten the clothes and make the atmosphere welcoming for their guests. We enjoy volunteering as a family, and we also send donations to organizations such as St. Vincent de Paul, Goodwill, Vietnam Vets and Care Mission. This is just one way that we as a family can help those in need in our own community. I also serve at Mary Rose Mission and worked in their dining room. Seeing all those people smiling warmed my heart. They were all sitting together eating, talking and catching up with each other. I have also volunteered at Rose Garden Mission several times with the youth group. While on my 8th grade Seek Retreat, I learned about Be Concerned, Welcome House, HONK and the Emergency Shelter of Northern Kentucky. After seeing what these agencies do and how they help the less fortunate, I realized even more how I want to do whatever I can to help others.

I would also love to become involved in the Aubrey Rose Foundation, to not only honor Aubrey's life and the difference she made in the people around her, but to also help bring a smile to the faces of the families and children who are facing illness and difficult situations. I love being around children and spending time with them, and a simple smile and caring gesture can sometimes be just what someone needs to get through a difficult time. When I get older, I want to be a missionary and travel to Africa and other places where people are in need of help. I also want to become a doctor so that I can continue helping others. However, I know that God may call me to do something else, and I will be ready to answer his call.

Please consider me for the Aubrey Rose Foundation Scholarship, as it will help my family pay for me to attend St. Henry District High School. With my sister and I both attending a Catholic high school, a scholarship will help to lessen the cost so that we can both receive a Catholic education and excellent preparation for college. I am really looking forward to attending St. Henry District High School in the fall. My sister Sarah is a sophomore at St. Henry, so I already know a lot of people and can't wait to meet more. I'm also looking forward to becoming involved in school clubs, sports and activities in which I'll be able to continue volunteering and helping others. Thank you for considering me for this opportunity.