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Aubrey Rose's story is inspiring to me because, even though she was so young and faced many obstacles, she kept a smile on her face and brought happiness and love to everyone she met. Even though I have not had to overcome the many difficulties that Aubrey Rose overcame, I strive to keep a smile on my face and treat others with love and respect. Life is short, and I try to live every day to the fullest.

One of the ways that I seek to serve others with love and compassion is through my participation in a Christian girls' service group called "Challenge." I have been a member of Challenge since fifth grade. We meet twice a month to share the love of Christ with others. For example, we are currently raising money for the Dragonfly Foundation which provides emotional support for families who have a child with cancer. We collected toys for the children served by the Dragonfly Foundation to play with when they are going through their treatments. We also helped hospice patients last spring by learning to sew and making pillows with positive messages on them. We hosted a tea party for the retired Sisters of Notre Dame. We recently made baby blankets for residents of Madonna House, a home for single mothers in need. Another way that I helped others was by putting together Easter baskets and delivering them to the children who live at Saint Joseph Supportive Housing in Elsmere, Kentucky.

In addition to my work with Challenge, I have also spent a week the past two summers as a Vacation Bible School Leader for my Blessed Sacrament Church. In this role, I got to share bible stories and virtues with a group of young children. I also spent a lot of time babysitting last summer for my family and neighbors. I help my elderly neighbors by raking their leaves in the fall and shoveling their snow in the winter – I try my best to conceal these acts of kindness from them and I like to surprise them with a cleared out yard or driveway.

I really believe in the power of a smile. Mother Teresa once said, "I never will understand all the good that a simple smile can accomplish." Last year, on the first day of school, my homeroom teacher noticed my smile and it prompted her to ask me to help a new student learn the ropes of our school. I was happy to do this, and it was such a great opportunity that led to us becoming very close friends! Another way that I have tried to reach out to others with a smile and love is by including those who may seem to be excluded or having a hard time fitting in. For example, last year I sat with a student at lunch who did not talk much. I tried to engage her in conversation, and I invited her to hang out with me at recess. One of my teachers noticed my efforts and later called me aside to thank me.

Throughout my eight years at Blessed Sacrament School, I was honored to receive a special award called the Christian Student Award two times. This award is given to one girl and one boy out of each grade from fourth through eighth grade, the recipients are nominated by their classmates. One of the things that my award states

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about me is, “She goes the extra mile and does so with a smile. She gives far more than what is asked. Her happy, cheerful demeanor draws others to her.” I am really thankful for this award. I also received the Good Sportsmanship Award three times. This award is given at the end of the school year to recognize students for their sportsmanlike behavior and encouraging words.

Outside of school, I have helped at the Rose Garden Mission in Covington, Kentucky. I served at this mission by cleaning bathrooms and sorting toys to be distributed at Christmas. At home, I help my younger sister with her homework and I babysit my younger siblings whenever needed. I have also played soccer since I was in Kindergarten, and I really try to give my teammates positive encouragement and do my best at all times.

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for this scholarship in honor of Aubrey Rose. Thank you for sharing her story and the beautiful pictures of her shining smile. It is a reminder to me of the power of love and kindness and the lasting effects that these gifts provide.