

Ryan Bollhauer - St. Mary School - La Salle High School

I have a history of being concerned about others less fortunate than me. I feel bad for people who don't have what they need to lead a good life. For many years I have served others by volunteering my time and talents.

I especially feel concerned when I see homeless people downtown and in other areas. I always give money to anyone I see who needs it - even if I don't have much to give them. I think it's really sad to think some people don't have a place to stay or enough food to eat.

I have served meals that my mom has helped make a number of times at the Madisonville Education and Assistance Center (MEAC) to those in need. I also participate in "Cooking with God" at my school. Students in the club cook healthy meals that we take to Tender Mercies, and then we serve the meals to people who are less fortunate.

Sports are a favorite activity of mine. I play or have played soccer, baseball, basketball, and football. I always try to practice good sportsmanship whenever I play. And, I often play a leadership role (especially in soccer). Although I have fun playing sports, I also use them to help others. I have participated in "Sports with God" at my school. We raised money through sporting events that was then donated to those in need. The last three years I have run track for St. Gertrude School. The St. Gertrude track team includes students from St. Mary and about six other Catholic grade schools. It's been a great experience meeting students from other schools. Each year, the track team has an event to help others. One year, I got people to sponsor me in an event; for every lap I ran, they donated money. The money was then given to people injured in the Boston Marathon. Last year, my Dad and I went to Matthew 25 Ministries to sort clothes with my track team.

I have volunteered at my church. One year, my family and I helped decorate the church for Christmas. The last two years at my church festival, I worked a booth. One year, I worked three hours at a booth by myself in kiddy land. I hope I made a lot of little kids happy. I have also helped set up the festival and have helped take it down when the festival was over.

My community is also important to me. I deliver newspapers once a week to my neighborhood, and I babysit for families who need it. When I was in cub scouts, I helped raise money to purchase baby items for a new mom and her baby through the Pregnancy East association. I also raised money for cub scouts by selling popcorn. Two years, I sold the third most popcorn, and one year I sold the second most. I also help out at school. For the last two years, I have worked as the clock/scoreboard operator at basketball games.

Finally, I show leadership by acting as a leader in my school Saint Family. I help guide younger students with their faith. And, we do things to help others like canned food drives called Harvest for the Hungry and coat drives.

I think it's great how much of an impact Aubrey Rose had in her short life. It is tremendous how her spirit continues to affect so many people through the good works of the foundation. I hope I am able to use my life to have a good impact on others, too.