

RYLIE GAVIN - ST. IGNATIUS - MOTHER OF MERCY HIGH SCHOOL

“In a gentle way, you can shake the world.” –Mahatma Gandhi

There are many ways to make a difference in the world. One notable way to change the lives of others is through service. Serving others is one of my passions. I have witnessed first-hand how service can affect others. Last summer, I attended a service camp. On one of the days, my group and I made 75 lunches to give to the homeless. Seeing the smile on their faces taught us a valuable lesson. Changing the world doesn't have to involve long research studies or money. All you need to make a difference is a little bit of compassion and kindness.

In the last few years, I have volunteered many times. I have volunteered with the Public Library, working with young kids during a summer camp program. I've volunteered at my school, most notably helping teachers set up their classrooms for the start of the school year. At my parish, I've helped at the summer festival, working at many of the booths. I've also volunteered at many organizations, including the Aubrey Rose Foundation, Matthew 25 Ministries, Bayley Place and the Ronald McDonald house. I have learned that lending my time to someone or something can seriously affect someone's everyday life. I have also experienced this on a closer level in my personal life. I always try to be a good role model to my three younger siblings. Just wiping away a tear can change their day. As the oldest of four kids, my parents rely on me to help babysit, help with homework, and set a good example for my brother and two sisters. Hopefully, they see that I take my responsibilities at school and home seriously and they follow in my footsteps.

At my grade school, I affect others by cheering up someone in need or praying for someone who's having a hard time. It doesn't take much to turn someone's day around. I always try to make sure everyone around me is okay and when they're struggling, I try to help them in any way possible.

In the future, I would like to change the lives of others by becoming a neonatologist or a pediatric oncologist. I love helping children and being around them. I believe this scholarship will help me pursue my education in hopes that someday I will be able to change lives. Thank you for your consideration.