

Zach Serra – St. Joseph School – St. Henry District High School

This fall, I am excited to be attending St. Henry District High School. However in my four years of being at St. Joseph School, I have been presented with many service opportunities. Big or small, the acts of service I have done with my family and friends have all made a difference in someone's life.

The largest service project I led was The Measles and Rubella Initiative (MRI) founded by the American Red Cross, Greater Cincinnati Chapter. I learned of the Initiative after being accepted to The American Red Cross Leadership Development Camp hosted by Xavier University. After the camp, I was invited to attend a meeting where I got the materials to start a fundraiser in my community. I developed the idea to conduct the fundraiser at my school. By working with my principal and creating a leadership team, I proposed the idea of an out of uniform day where all funds raised were donated to the Red Cross. I placed posters throughout our building and gave daily announcements the week prior to the event. I made sure all of the students were informed about the MRI project and how their donations would be used. By the end of the day, my community had raised over \$375.00 for the campaign. It was nice to know that people cared enough to save over 300 lives.

During my time at St. Joseph, I have been elected to serve on our Student Council for four years - the last two years as an officer. The Student Council works to raise money for The Mary Rose Mission in Florence, Kentucky to support their efforts to feed the "food insecure". We also coordinate the school's collection of pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, which are used as a funding source, and coordinate writing letters to our servicemen overseas. In my community, I have volunteered for many years at the Crescent Springs Christmas In the Park, the city Halloween Trail, and the city's annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Throughout these acts of service, I have learned many things. The most important being that serving others is a meaningful experience. The joy of seeing others come together to make a difference is inspiring. Knowing that a few people can make a big difference is an important lesson. I have also learned that when an individual takes initiative and works hard that person can accomplish great things - such as saving lives, serving the homeless community, or giving people in different countries access to life saving medicines.

I am passionate about service to others because every time I serve I make a difference. I know that there are people who have less than me and I have the ability, and the spiritual call, to help them. It should be everyone's job to help his or her neighbor. This is because Jesus gave us the most important rule
- love your neighbor as yourself. In order for one to serve, they need to walk in the other person's shoes, and know that if they were in that situation, they would want help too. By doing so, one can help others with a passion because they have seen the problems the poor and troubled have been through.

I cannot wait to see what opportunities await me at St. Henry District High School. My Catholic education will help me achieve my goal of continuing to serve others throughout high school and for the rest of my life. I will work hard to serve my school and the community to the best of my abilities.