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“Lord make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love, where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.” – St. Francis of Assisi

I recently chose St. Francis of Assisi as my Confirmation name. I chose him because he is the patron saint of animals and I want to be a veterinarian. I think helping animals is my calling in this life and I would have the opportunity to provide family pets with health and sometimes, another chance. I also realize St. Francis is a great role model and he tried to make a positive impact on any negatives.

Every day I have a goal: to make at least one person laugh. I do this because I want to make someone's day a little bit brighter. This person might just hide behind a smile because they don't want anyone asking questions, or they might just want to be left alone. I want to make that person's day. It doesn't matter who it is as long as they can rely on someone to make them smile. This makes me feel that even if it is just a small gesture, I am able to make a positive impact on someone else.

Over the past year, I have been given the opportunity to volunteer at Cheviot Eagles for a dance for mentally handicapped adults. I help prepare and clean up the dance. During this dance, I dance and talk to many of the people there. I enjoy making them feel comfortable, welcomed, and special. Even though they may look or talk differently, doesn't mean that they aren't people too. They should be treated with the same respect as everyone else. I have also volunteered at Matthew 25 Ministries with my aunt. We paired gloves for recent hurricane victims and boxed shirts for the Hunger 5K. Also, around Christmas time a few friends and I went caroling around the neighborhood to collect donations for St. Vincent de Paul. We made so many people smile that night, including each other because we knew that we had made a difference. I am also a mass server. When I am serving I give my whole self to God. I feel more connected to Him and my faith during and after serving. Often times I wake up early to serve 7:30am mass. Father smiles at me and thanks me for getting up to serve God. This makes me feel good and I enjoy serving my Catholic community in this way.

I am the oldest of five children in my family. The Aubrey Rose Foundation Scholarship would ease the financial burden on my parents. We all go to St. Dominic School. My parents have to make sacrifices to continue to provide Catholic Education for all five of us. They spend more time at work than at home to help pay for tuition, and they are always working their hardest for us. I want to attend Seton High School because I believe it will help me grow into the person that I am destined to be. Seton Sisterhood will provide me with a strong faith filled foundation that will help me conquer life's ups and downs.

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When I think about the future, I want my effect on others to be a positive one. It's the little things that go a long way – whether it's a small gesture like a smile, an encouraging word, or a loving action such as volunteering. I will continue to work on the small things I can do to have a positive impact on the world.