

Impacting Others through Positive Interactions

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This is a hard essay to write. I think we all struggle to write positive things we have done. I have been taught not to “brag” and to help others as a way to show my faith in God. After much reflection, I feel that I have made an impact in people’s lives by being an all around good person. I have performed many good deeds both large and small. The impact of these actions were that they are important to the people I have helped. I have learned that it is not just those around you that you can influence by your behavior. By looking for opportunities outside of my family, I was able to help others on a larger scale. Those people are my friends, my neighbors, my parish, my community, and my family.

I have been a good person to my friends. There have been many times that I have volunteered to take help them when they were unable to make it to their scheduled serving dates. I remember defending my friends when other students were being mean to them. When they have struggled to stand up to bully’s I was able to support them by my words or actions. I helped a friend with relationship issues at school by being a good listener and offering advice when needed. I am not the best basketball player so I have recognized when my teammates are having a hard time. I have encouraged struggling players on my basketball team to keep trying and to not give up. I often help friends with their homework. Whether by helping them understand the assignment or sending them a picture of the work when they forget. While some of these things do not seem like much, they are examples of the positive person I try to be. There are days when I do better than others but I like to think most of my actions reflect a positive impact on those that are in my daily life.

I feel that I have had a positive impact on those in and out of my community. There is a gentleman that lives next door to us. He lives by himself and is unable to work anymore. I will often do things to make sure that his life is easier at home. As an example for the past couple of winters, I have been shoveling his driveway, sidewalk, and walkway without any expectation of pay. I helped my Parish by lecturing and serving at masses. I feel lucky that I also enjoy lecturing and I am grateful when I get the opportunity. I am involved in our parish’s youth group. We are often able to have a positive impact through the service projects we participate in (winter coat drive). The larger community benefitted when I volunteered at a soup kitchen. It was around Christmas time so they had us wrap presents instead of serving food. These presents were for those who could not afford to buy presents for their families. Through my baseball organization I benefitted the larger community when I worked for the Reds RBI facilities can food drive. I feel fortunate that my church and sports teams offer

opportunities to participate in service learning. I have been learning a lot about service learning the last 2 years. One of the reasons I am going to attend St. Xavier High School next year is their motto "Men for Others". I know I will continue to have people around me that want to have a positive impact on others.

Lastly, my family has benefitted from my actions. As part of the family, and the oldest, my parents have given me responsibilities. After school, I watch my siblings' and help them with their homework. I shovel the walk way and do extra work around the house. I also make sure my brother and sister stay on task with their chores and homework.

These are some of the ways I have made a positive impact in people's lives. I enjoy helping others and giving back to my community. I have been given a lot from my family and friends. It is important to understand that giving back and having a positive impact on others is a responsibility we all have. I think St. Xavier will continue to give me these opportunities and provide me with the education I need to continue serving others even when I finish high school.