

Rebecca Kelhoffer - St. John the Baptist Harrison - Mercy McAuley page 1 of 2

Being of service to others is an important part of our faith, and I try to keep that in mind when I start to get involved in different activities. As president of my school's student council, I helped in raising over two thousand canned goods or other nonperishable items for the North Dearborn food pantry. As a small school, this was a huge accomplishment for us. Our school is also working on the corporal work of mercy, "feed the hungry." We have donated money from a few of fundraisers to buy supplies for this. We hope to go to a soup kitchen and give sandwiches once we raise enough money to get all the supplies.

Every summer, I also help my aunt at Vacation Bible School. I try to help wherever she needs me, and this past summer, that just happened to be story time. We acted out Bible stories, helped the children understand it better, and helped make activities for each story. We tried to make learning stories from the Bible more fun. We helped increase their faith in our Lord, and all the things wonderful things He has done. In the past, story time used to be the children's least favorite part of the day. We were successful in changing that.

This past summer, I also helped out with the Ben Kelhoffer Foundation Golf Outing. Ben Kelhoffer is my uncle who died of leukemia. This was the 15th and final golf outing and was the first year I was allowed to help. I was extremely excited. I helped sell split the pot and raffle tickets. We sold more split the pot tickets than they had sold any other year. The Ben Kelhoffer Foundation raises money to give out scholarships. They also donate money to the Make a Wish Foundation, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and Children's Hospital HEM-OC Unit. Helping raise money for this was really fun.

Over the summer, I also helped at our school's festival and chicken dinner. I helped clean off tables at the chicken dinner. I also replaced people's drinks and made sure they had everything they needed. During the festival, a supervisor told the original people running a game that they had to stop because they were giving away free prizes to their friends. My friend and I noticed that the supervisor was running the game when she had a lot of other things she still had to check on. We offered to take over for her. Helping out with the chicken dinner and festival helped raise money for our parish.

In November, I helped out with my school's Turkey Dinner. I was in charge of making the mashed potatoes. This was the first time I had made the mashed potatoes. Every person helping out made what could have been a lot of work a lot easier. In times when I didn't need to make any more mashed potatoes, I helped make carry out boxes. After the turkey dinner was over, I helped clean up the cafeteria. This also helped raise money for our parish.

On Sunday, January 28th from 2-4, I am helping at our school's open house. I am spending most of this time giving tours. However, I will also spend part of it in the

cafeteria talking to people about our student council. Usually, 8th graders give the tours, but because there was a lack of volunteers, it was extended to a few other grades. I

hope we bring more families to our school. I also hope that everyone who comes to open house feels welcomed at school.

I also am always helping my family out at home. My mom is a teacher and always has something she needs to work on for her class. Whether I am making dinner, cleaning, sweeping the floor, or watching my three-year-old sister, I always find a way to help her out. My mom appreciates this because it gives her time to make lesson plans and grade papers. My dad appreciates this because it gives him time to help out my grandma at her house.

Since it has been snowing recently, I also helped shovel my neighbor's drive way, along with our own. My neighbor is always extremely nice to us and is recovering from cancer, so my family tries to help out in little ways like this.

I have always enjoyed helping others out, and I feel like it improves my relationship with God and others.