

MacKenzie Milbourn – St. John the Baptist Dry Ridge – Mount Notre Dame

Kind- spirited, open- minded, and thoughtful. I believe that these three things describe me best when it comes to affecting other people's lives. Throughout my years going to Catholic school, I have learned to respect and appreciate all people. I have had many service opportunities my school. Also, I am required to do service for Confirmation, which gives me a great opportunity to impact other's lives in a positive way.

I have recently had the privilege of volunteering at Matthew 25 Ministries. While I was there we sorted through donated medical supplies. The experience taught me that not everyone can go to the doctor and have all the supplies they need when they are needed most. This also taught me to count all my blessings and appreciate how lucky I am to be so fortunate in having all the medical supplies I need. I hope that my experience and time at Matthew 25 Ministries helped people all across the world, and in third-world countries receive all the supplies they need.

I truly believe that just simply smiling at someone can affect their whole day. I recently worked at Breakfast in Bethlehem during Advent for my Parish. There, we served breakfast after a prayer service. I believe that I affected all the parish members who I served in a positive way by making sure to smile and act as Jesus would have to these people. Seeing the smiles on their faces as we served them was priceless, and it made me feel so good that knew I was helping to brighten someone's day.

Going to a Catholic school has really helped mold me into the person I am today. I have had the opportunity to grow in my faith, voice my opinions, and know I am always supported in everything I do.

I have impacted and affected many of my friend's lives. I am always listening and I have an open-mind about all of their opinions and problems. Having an open-mind, I believe, is one of the most important qualities in a good friend because it helps you communicate your ideas and get other people's opinions on a subject. These experiences have taught me to be thoughtful of everyone's opinions.

In August of 2017, one of my teachers had a horrible back injury and wasn't able to set up her classroom for the upcoming school year, so a couple friends and I spent the day cleaning her classroom and setting it up for school. Seeing her appreciation and gratitude was amazing. It felt great to help her and seeing her smile made my day.

Aside from school I have helped my community in many other ways.

On March 6, 2013, my mom was diagnosed with breast cancer. At this time I was just in third grade so I couldn't fully understand the severity of the disease. During the whole time my mom was fighting she was always so worried about the other women who had this terrible disease and how she could help. Together, as a family we did walks, raised money, and helped other women in their fight as well. Ultimately, this experience taught me to really cherish the precious moments with my family and to give back to all of the

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women that are so brave and wake up every day to fight no matter how sick they are. This experience truly humbled me and taught me to be kind- spirited to all people. Throughout this experience I always was supportive of my mom and at her side as much as I could. I truly believe all the prayers and help we gave helped her have a full recovery and fight every day. As of March 6, 2018, my mom will be 5 years cancer free!

I hope that one day I will pass on these great traits to my children.