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I believe that making a difference can change the lives of those around me. I feel it is important to show kindness and compassion in all that I do. As a Christian, Jesus taught me to help those around me, and in my life I try to do this each day. I strive to make a positive impact in my school, community, and family by leading, serving, and helping.

I can make a difference at school in many ways. For instance, in the morning when I walk into school I greet my classmates and teachers with a smile. Something as simple as a smile can make someone's day. Another way I show kindness is by offering to help my peers if I see that he or she may be struggling on an assignment. At lunch when I see that a classmate is sitting alone, I sit next to them and ask them how their day is going. I run cross country for Sacred Heart School, and this year our team had a special runner, Mike. Mike has Down's Syndrome. He practiced with our team all summer and worked very hard. His goal was to participate in one meet. I cheered, encouraged, and guided Mike throughout the challenging two mile run. When I noticed he was struggling, I ran alongside him. With all the support and love from the team Mike reached his goal of completing a cross country meet. Not only did he meet his goal, he participated in two more meets improving each time. I feel proud to make a difference at school.

I believe I have not only made a difference through my school, but also through my community. Three years ago at my school I joined a group called Helping Hands. Helping Hands is a group that helps fill needs in our community. At the end of last year I was elected Vice President of Helping Hands. A few weeks ago I went to Matthew 25

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Ministries. At Matthew 25 Ministries I made food bags packed with vegetables and rice. The food bags were sent to the victims of Hurricane Harvey. We also donated and folded winter clothing items that were being sent to children who can't afford winter clothing. One of my favorite activities to participate in is the Joe Nuxall Miracle League Fields, where we help disabled athletes play baseball. Other activities I have been involved with are The Cincinnati Children's Kindervelt Mom and Me Valentine's Day Tea, and the fall farmer's market in Fairfield. It really makes me feel good when I help children. Not only have I helped the community through Helping Hands, but also through SOS Camp. This summer I participated in a camp called SOS. S.OS stands for Summer of Service. In SOS I went to downtown Cincinnati every day for a week and helped serve our city in various ways. During this week I painted houses, planted flowers, and helped children learn to read and write. All of these actions have made a difference in people's lives because I was able to help them in a practical way and put a smile on their face.

I also like to do things for my family. In my family I try to help clean the house so my parents don't have to do it all. I help out around the house by doing the dishes, vacuuming, and folding laundry. Helping my sister is also important. I help her with her homework or studying. I know my sister enjoys it when I practice soccer and basketball with her. Whenever I help my family I believe it makes them happy and brings us closer.

I truly believe that Jesus has guided me to help others. I know Jesus has called me to live a life of service. I enjoy making a difference in all areas of my life. As Mother Teresa once said, "Small things done with great love will change the world."

