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I have made a difference in the lives of multiple people at my grade school. For example, I was helping Mr. Gehring, the custodian of my school, since 6th grade. Mr. Gehring has had multiple surgeries on his knees, legs and shoulders. Every day I would see him struggling and I felt the need to help him.

Every morning before school would start, I would get there a hour early and work with him to get the school prepared before the students would arrive. We would fix little things around the school like desks, chairs, and tables. We would make sure all the rooms and hallways were clean. When Mr. Gehring would ask, I would also help him after school. We would get things prepared for whatever event that was taking place in the evening. Because the teachers would see me helping him all the time, they started asking me for my help as well. Even the front office would ask for my help. I would come in over the summer to clean out classrooms, put new books away, move things from one room to another, and get things organized for the upcoming school year. I believe that by helping Mr. Gehring, the teachers, and other staff members at my grade school made a difference in their lives because they were all so very grateful for my help. Mr. Gehring retired a couple months ago, but he always told me that he would have retired earlier if it wasn't for my help.

Because of my help at the school over the past two years, this has made me a better person. Mr. Gehring taught me that working hard and staying focused will lead the way to success. He helped me understand about caring and taking pride in my work. He taught me how to overcome hard tasks when I thought there was no way I

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could complete them. He taught me strategies to think outside of the box and find new and efficient ways to doing things. He taught me a lot of life lessons that I will always be grateful for and never forget. And because of the wonderful things he has taught me, I know my work ethic and compassion for others has affected my parents. They are very proud of me for what I did for the school, the teachers, staff, and Mr. Gehring.

Another example of how I made a difference at my grade school is when I was in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, my school didn't have a boys' volleyball team. So, me and a classmate decided we were going to prepare a rally speech and present it in front of each 6<sup>th</sup> grade class. Guess what? It worked! We finally had enough students to make a 6<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball team. The only thing we were missing was a coach. I explained to my mom what I did and because she was so proud of me for taking the initiative and rallying the other students, she offered to help coach. I am proud to say that ever since then, students who never played volleyball joined the team and they love it. John Paul II still has a volleyball team and more boys are signing up to play.