

## **Madison Blair – St. Maximilian Kolbe/MTCES – Bishop Fenwick HS page 1 of 4**

My name is Madison Blair and I am currently in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary School in Liberty Township, Ohio and will be accepting my offer to attend Bishop Fenwick High School in Franklin, Ohio next week.

When I was in either Kindergarten or 1<sup>st</sup> grade, my parents gave me a book about Mother Teresa which included many of her well-known quotes. I have always enjoyed helping and being kind to others, so this was a book I always liked to read. I want to share a few of the quotes and how my actions show kindness to others.

At the end of 6<sup>th</sup> grade, I was given the Mother Teresa award at my school. My teacher recognized my willingness to help others. My teacher wrote: "When I was asked to choose one student to receive the Mother Teresa Award, Madison Blair immediately popped into my mind. Saint Teresa said, "Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier." Madison truly embodies this quality and lives out this quote each and every day. She is always the first one to volunteer; whether it is a teacher needing something collected, an absent sheet filled out for her fellow classmate out sick, or another student in need of a pencil, pen, piece of paper, she is happy to help in any way that she can, and she does it with a huge smile that lights up her face and positive attitude that leaves you feeling happier and a bit special." Mrs. Hoar, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher MTCES, 2017. It felt good to be recognized but helping others is something that makes me feel good and I am happy to do it.

I have always loved that quote from Mother Teresa. For the past two summers, I have been a volunteer at the St. Maximilian Kolbe vacation bible school as a craft leader. I loved attending VBS when I was younger, and I now love volunteering to help as a craft leader even more! This is always one of the best weeks of summer break because I can make "little" friends while helping them with crafts. Making friends with younger kids who I see both at church and school has been fun because I get to see them after VBS and I get to continue to encourage them and be their friend. It makes me happy to always see them happy to see me. One summer I met a boy named Robbie, who happened to also go to my school. I saw Robbie every day at school and he even made things for me in his art class. A little girl named JoJo told me at the beginning of the year that she was sad that I was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade because that meant that I would only be at her school for one more year. It is the little things like this that make me want to do more for them.

I love my family very much and appreciate all that they do for me. Love and kindness is something that I feel surrounded by each day. I pray each night and thank God for my family, friends, my home, my school, good food to eat and all my blessings. At school there is a poster that says: "What if you woke up today with only the things that you thanked God for yesterday." Reading that is always a good reminder to pray!

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“There are no great things, only small things with great love.” is another quote that I like from Mother Teresa. Helping others always makes me feel good and makes me want to do more. I like helping with the nursing home bingo ministry at church. I love making new friends and sharing stories with older people when they want someone to talk to or play games with. Other things that I have done through church is work at the festival, participate in children’s choir (for 3 years) and be an alter server during mass.

Kindness has always been a part of who I am. Another example of my kindness is when I asked friends who came to my birthday party to bring a money donation to a charity instead of a gift for me. I helped raise money for Animal Friends Humane Society one year and then for Children’s Hospital another year. It felt good to make the donations and feel like I did something good for someone or an animal in need.

One summer, my sister, my friend and I collected and painted rocks to raise money for a local animal shelter, the ASPCA. We called the rocks “Wish Rocks” and asked garage sale customers for donations. It was a fun way to craft for a good cause. We raised \$85 for the organization and we were all very excited that our rocks were so well liked.

Another quote that I like is from Martin Luther King Jr.: “Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.” I want to be the light and the love. I think that it is very important to be kind to others and follow the golden rule to treat others the way that you would like to be treated.

Thank you for reading my application and for your consideration for one of the Aubrey Rose scholarships. After reading Aubrey’s story on the website, I can tell that she was a very special little girl that was surrounded with love.



Me donating money raised at a birthday party to Children's Hospital (Feb 2014)



Me, a friend and my little sister selling "Wish Rocks" at our garage sale to raise money for ASPCA. (July 2015)



Me and my 6<sup>th</sup> Grade teacher after I received the Mother Teresa Award (2017)



Me, my sister and my friends volunteering at the St. Max festival in a few of the game booths over the years.