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I have been doing service for many years. I love helping people in need with many different things. I think my favorite part about helping others is how it makes me feel and all of the things I have learned about people and about myself. I don't only do service for confirmation hours or assigned hours for school. I also do service because it is great to know that you are making a significant difference in people's lives.

I am on a girl scout troop that has done lots of service over all nine years. In order to achieve a part of the Marian Award and to earn our Girl Scout Silver Award, we did a large service project together as a troop. We have an event at our school twice a year called the Toy and Clothing Sale where people bring their old clothes and toys in and sell them. Part of the money goes back to the seller and part of the money goes to a group that gives back in different ways to our school and church. All of the girls on my troop went through their closets and found all of the clothes that didn't fit them or they did not like. We also asked other people for toy & clothing donations. We spent hours and hours tagging all of the things to put in the sale.

After two sales, we all together earned \$500 dollars to give to a charity of our choice. Our troop found a pet rescue center that recently had money stolen from their account. We decided to help the animals at the shelter that are often forgotten. Our troop worked hard to make many different toys and blankets for the animals. We went to the pet shelter and gave them the check for \$500 dollars and all of the toys and blankets. They gave us a tour of the pet shelter and we got to interact with lots of different animals and let them out of their cages so that they could play which they most

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likely don't do very often. It was a lot of fun to be able to actually meet the animals we were helping with our donation and interact with them.

Another service opportunity I got to do was Shine your Light Service Camp. This is a summer camp at our school where we go to 5 different places to do service. I did the camp the summer before 7th grade for confirmation service hours. I loved service camp so much that I did it again last summer even though I did not need any hours for school or for confirmation. For service camp we went to Sweet Cheeks Diaper Bank, The Giving Fields, St. Leo's Food Pantry, St. Paul's Home, Venice on Vine and St. Francis Seraph Ministries and many more. The Shine Your Light service camp is a great experience and I am planning on doing it again this summer!

I also like to help do service for my school. I have taken part in "Teacher Readiness Day" which is an event at my school where kids sign up to go in over the summer and help teachers set up their classrooms for the coming school year.

I also help at an event at St. Ignatius called Happy Birthday Jesus/Breakfast with Santa which is an event in my Parish where kids and their families come around Christmas and have an opportunity to see Santa, learn about the birth of Jesus, make crafts and sing songs, etc.

During Open House at my school, I am a student ambassador for St. Ignatius. I give tours of the school to families. I answer their questions and tell them why I love St. Ignatius.

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One of my favorite little projects was for my Marian Award. I set a goal to do something I could do to use my gifts and talents to do service. My project ended up teaching me a lot more about myself than I thought it would. I invited over about ten little girls from my Parish around Christmas time last year to do some Christmas crafts together and it was a lot of fun. We made cookies and glass ornaments and various other Christmas related crafts. I felt like I was very good at interacting with the kids, which might mean that I would be good at doing something with kids one day as a career. I think that service gave me an idea of a possible profession that I would want to be a part of. I learned that service can help you to achieve great things.

I love doing service because it makes me feel good and feel like I am making a positive impact on many people's lives. Service is a great way to express your talent by helping others. I plan to keep doing service projects in high school and I am excited to help more people and learn more about myself and others.