

## **Kara Heilers-St. Michael-Mount Notre Dame**

Everyone makes a difference in the lives of the people around them. I have been told that my decisions have a ripple effect on the choices of the people around me. I believe this to be true and I am now beginning to realize how much of a difference I have made. Sometimes I ask myself, "What would my friends' lives be like if I wasn't in them?" It is a difficult question and I have no answer, but one thing that I do know is that I have definitely made a difference. I know that I have made a difference at my school, on my soccer team, and through the service I do.

I have made a difference in the lives of the people around me at my school. The biggest difference that I have made would probably be the fact that I am on my school's student council. As a member, I help with the decisions on how the events throughout the school year will play out. This has an impact on what the rest of the school will be able to do this year. I also help with the younger children's gym class. I am able to help them learn how to tie their shoes and jump rope. I am looked up to a lot by the younger kids, and I feel blessed to be such a role model for the younger grades. That is how I have made a difference at my school.

I have also made a difference in my soccer team. In soccer you all work as a team to win. Because you are all on a team, every member has different abilities and strengths. I joined my club team in the spring of 2018. Because I joined the team, my teammates and I can move positions around and become better, well-rounded players. I also try to always bring a smile to the game, encourage my teammates to push themselves, and cheer for them when they are doing their best. I hope that my positive

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attitude has encouraged my teammates to be the best that they can be. That is how I have made a difference on my soccer team.

Finally, I have made a difference in other people's lives by the service I do. I come from an atmosphere that very much encourages doing service. I have been told by many presentations from many different service organizations that giving an hour of my time can mean so much to so many people. I have been told this, but I also know it in my heart when I hear the gratitude in people's voices and see it in their eyes. For example, when I delivered cookies to Operation Give-Back, made blankets for Warm Welcomes, volunteered at Hands Against Hunger with my school, and made a Box of Joy with my Grandma, the gratitude that I received from each organization was so amazing. Another example is when I was a crew leader for younger kids at Vacation Bible School. It was so special to see the gratitude on the kids, parents, and leaders' faces at the end of the week because they had so much fun. That is how I know that I have made a difference in other people's lives by the service I do.

My school, my soccer team, and the service I do are some of the ways that I know that I have made a difference in others' lives. These positive differences are so rewarding and I think that I will always remember them. I know that making a difference is very easy to do in someone's life, because of personal experience. Whenever my friends compliment me or send me a nice text, that small action makes my entire day. A great question to ask is, "Who's day can you make today?"