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“Being kind is giving even when it seems like you have nothing to give.” R.A. Ktivist.

In my opinion, being kind is the best gift you can give anyone. I have always been ready to give whatever I have whenever it is needed. Whether that is to give a smile to the new kid in class, to help my brother with his homework, to serve at mass, or be a Eucharistic Minister at my church. Whatever it is, I'm ready to give my all and I always do it with a smile on my face and joy in my heart, just like Aubrey Rose. My name is Maeve Schurdak and I go to St. Vivian School. I love to be kind because it fills others' hearts with joy, which in turn fills my heart with joy, too.

Being kind is one of the greatest gifts that God has given me, and I use that gift to the best of my ability. Recently, I've been granted a very amazing opportunity that consisted of working hand-in-hand with less fortunate men, women, and families in our city. My family and I made peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and passed them out to the homeless in Downtown Cincinnati. It felt really good to give these sandwiches to them because as I passed it from my hand to theirs, I could see the gratefulness in their eyes. And, just because they received a delicious and healthy meal. It was a very simple and easy gesture for me, but to these people this is something much more than a gesture; this is their next meal. Even though it was very easy for my family and I to do, we created a source of hope in these people's lives. After we were done, I felt different, not in a bad way, but in a good way; I felt like I truly impacted these people's lives and they really appreciated what I did. That made me feel like I truly changed

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these people's lives for the better, even if it was just for one day. You never know how far a little act of kindness will go and how it will impact you.

There is always a chance to spread good deeds around the world, and you can find places to help right outside your front door. I live in a very close-knit neighborhood and we literally live the term, "Neighbor helping neighbor." Everyday that I see someone or something needing help, I jump right on it. One of the most important things I did for my neighborhood was cleaning the streets and sidewalks after a big storm. My friend Ruthie and I did this so our neighbors could walk and drive safely and easily without having to step or drive over big tree limbs. We always get a lot of thank yous, but Ruthie and I don't do it for the praise and glory on Earth, we do it to praise and glorify our one God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As a Catholic, it's very important to be an active member of the church. To fulfill this part of my service, I volunteer in several ways. I serve at my church, I am a Eucharistic Minister, and I sing in my school's choir. Once or twice a month, I am a Eucharistic Minister and even though it might seem like the Eucharistic part of the mass is only for Catholics, at St. Vivian you don't have to be Catholic to participate. Anyone is invited to come up and be blessed. That is the part I like best about a Catholic school because anybody, no matter who you are or what religious background you came from, you can participate in the mass. I think that is really special to include everyone. I am also an altar server and three to four times a month I assist the priest and deacon in the

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liturgy. I'm very grateful for the opportunities I've been granted by attending a Catholic School.

As I continue my education at Mount Notre Dame and later in college, I would like to join clubs that do service work outside of my state and even my country. I have never done service work outside of my city and I am very excited to expand my horizons. No matter what the future throws my way, I will continue to use my number one gift, to serve my number one savior, Jesus Christ.