

## **Leah Tiberghien – St. Columban – Mount Notre Dame**

My name is Leah Tiberghien, and I am an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Saint Columban School. When I read about Aubrey's story, I immediately thought what a strong, and brave little girl she must have been. She was a fighter. I enjoyed looking at all the pictures of Aubrey. I can tell how lucky she was to have such a loving, and supportive family. Thank you for sharing the pictures of Aubrey. The pictures you shared reminded me of the pictures we have of my older sister, Taylor. God, took Taylor too young, also.

Most people think that you have to do amazing, huge things to make a difference in people's lives, but you don't. I learned from a young age, and seeing the pain in my parents eyes from losing Taylor, that a smile, a touch, and kind words can make a huge impact in a person's life. Random acts of kindness are all it takes to make someone's day.

I'm the girl who smiles, says hi, or can I help you. I'm the girl who will ask you to join my group when you are alone. I'm the girl who will ask if you are okay, or do you want to talk. I'm the girl who will help my teacher, by running out to her car, and volunteering to help in anyway. I'm the girl who hopefully has, made a difference in others' lives.

Every year, I make a difference in my community. Right after Thanksgiving, I bake treats for the police men, the firemen, and the Loveland Food Pantry. After I am done baking them, I go and deliver them to the places. The look on their face puts the biggest smile on my face. I look forward to doing this every year because not only does it impact me as a person, but I know that so many families out there really appreciate this act of kindness.

The next act of service that I do is around Christmas time. I make sure that I do this every year because I couldn't imagine all those kids that are not able to spend Christmas with their moms or their dads because they are out fighting for our country. Every Christmas my older sister and I go and buy supplies to make Christmas cards for the troops. In addition to that, we get a bunch of food and box it up for them. Around a month after we mail them out, we always receive the sweetest letter by one of the troops thanking us for what we have done.

Lastly, one of my most favorite things to do is to volunteer at InReturn. InReturn is a non-profit organization that provides jobs for people that have disabilities. It give those a chance to work, and be able to interact with others. Volunteering at this organization is very enjoyable because I get to interact with all the workers, ask them how their day has been, ect.

Doing these simple acts of kindnesses really helped me to grow as a person, build up a closer relationship with God, and lastly, really impacting the less fortunate or people that fight for our country. One quote that I try and live by states; "A simple act of kindness can make a tremendous impact on a person's life."- Anonymous.