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From a very early age, I found that I really enjoy helping others and doing things for other people. They don't have to be huge tasks or something very elaborate and complicated. They can be the littlest of things. I did these little things, not only because I know it is the right thing to do, but also because of the way it made me and the people around me feel.

I am the second oldest of four kids. This has given me the opportunity to see how to do things the right way. I have been blessed to have tremendous role models in my life. My mom and dad have taught me right from wrong and my sister has demonstrated to me what it really means to be a big sister. By having two little siblings, there has been more than enough opportunities to demonstrate doing things for other people.

I remember when my mom was sick and first diagnosed with cancer. This really scared us all. We did not know what to do or what to expect. I remember praying and asking God "Why did this happen to my mom and what can I do?" I knew my mom needed to rest and take it easy after her surgeries and treatments. I thought that the best thing to do was to help her do the things around the house. I helped clean up around the house, babysat my little brother, make supper (when I could), and most importantly, just be there for my mom. I know it wasn't much, but I know my mom really appreciated it and made her worry less about the little things and allow her to focus on just getting better.

My mom showed tremendous strength in pulling through her battle with cancer. We all thanked God when we found out the cancer was completely removed. Unfortunately, the cancer has returned a few times since her first time. Each time she has battled and fought hard to get rid of her cancer. I think her faith and the faith of our family has really made all this possible. By pulling together as a family, praying and doing all we could do for my mom, she has pulled through time and time again. Each time the cancer has come back, our family has grown closer and closer together in our faith.

Outside of the home, I also enjoy doing things for others. At Visitation, I am actively involved in the ACTS program (Association of Catholic Teenage Services). This program allows me to visit those who are less fortunate than me. I get to go to soup kitchens to help feed the hungry, grade schools in poor areas of the city to help watch young children after school and nursing homes to visit the elderly. These experiences have given me a greater appreciation for all that I have.

Also, at Visitation, I am a Eucharistic minister and tutor. I feel that being a Eucharistic minister is important because it gives me a way to confirm my Catholic faith

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and show to others that it is cool to have faith and let it be an important part of your life. As a tutor, I felt a tremendous sense of pride. I know there were times in school when I struggled and there was someone there to help me. I am so grateful that I have had the opportunity to pay back those who have helped me by helping others with their school work. I can honestly say that I looked forward to tutoring as I got so much joy in helping others.

As I graduate from Visitation and move on to the next chapter of my life in high school, I will look for opportunities to continue to serve others. I know that at Seton there are clubs and even classes that will enable me to continue this service. As I get older and get more responsibilities, I will be sure to make service to others an important part of my life.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to apply to the Aubrey Rose Foundation Scholarship and I appreciate you taking the time to read this essay. This application process has given me time to reflect and think about the things that I have done and how they have positively impacted the lives of my family and friends,