

Johnathan Aull – Our Lady of Victory – Elder High School

Living every day is a gift from God, I live everyday trying to spread positivity. I honor God and live my life through kindness to others. I focus my kindness on my family, friends, and community.

I have a unique opportunity to serve as a role model for my two younger sisters and two young cousins, while building a strong relationship with my grandparents. All five of us, ranging in grades K-8, hang out together for about an hour, at my grandparents' house every morning before school. I am the oldest of the bunch and the only boy, which often makes me the leader of the pack. I help out with my cousins in the morning, playing, entertaining and helping to get them ready before we head out to school. The close bond I have with my little cousins is powerful and I love when I get a little wave or quick hug if we pass each other in the hallways at school. I recognize the blessing God has given me through my relationships with my grandparents and cousins and these little interactions can have a big impact.

Volunteering and giving back to the community are part of who we are as a family. Over the past few years, I have volunteered with my family and friends in a number of activities, positively affecting the lives of others. I am involved with volunteering at Matthew 25 Ministries, Our Lady of Victory Festival, and Cincinnati Children's Hospital Family Volunteer Days. One of my favorite volunteer activities is the Our Lady of Victory (OLV) Christmas Giving Tree in which my family helps coordinate every Christmas. This activity is now just part of our family Christmas traditions, like baking cookies or decorating the tree. I help with the behind-the-scenes work, sorting

Johnathan Aull – Our Lady of Victory – Elder High School, page 2 of 3

and organizing the gifts and preparing them to be delivered. Since this is my 8th grade year, my mom allowed me to leave school for a few hours to help deliver the gifts to the West End Community.

As in many areas of my life, Covid-19 also affected my ability to volunteer and help the community in ways I was familiar. Things looked different for everyone, but I still wanted to help others. So, I rallied my sisters and my two other cousins who live on our street and organized a neighborhood can food drive during the Covid-19 lockdown. My mom shared her project management tips and my aunt shared her creative advertising skills to get us started and it took off. We created flyers inviting our neighbors to donate can food for the OLV Food Pantry and the Anderson Ferry Pantry. We placed collection boxes on the porches of our houses so neighbors could safely drop off donations. Additionally, we set up a collection day and had our moms drive us around the neighborhood to pick up any donations people left on their porch. We ended up with over ten large boxes of can goods. We took pictures of the collection and shared with the neighborhood and thanked them for their generosity.

I have added a new volunteer activity to my list this year. My grandparents volunteer for The Last Mile Food Rescue, in which they pick up food from local restaurants and stores and deliver to women's shelters. During the summer and off days from school, I have joined them on their routes. This is a win for everyone, I get to hang out with my grandparents for a few hours, prevent food from being wasted, and help others.

Johnathan Aull – Our Lady of Victory – Elder High School, page 3 of 3

I have shared with you how I have affected the lives of others through volunteering and spending quality time with family. I would like to highlight one last way that I believe I affect people around me, specifically my teammates. I have played sports throughout my years at Our Lady of Victory. Some sports I was better than others and on occasion just may have seen a little more of the bench than the court or field. My mom always supported me and told me that on a team, there is a role for everyone. This is when I discovered my talent to pump up others and get them excited. This is not something that can be taught like throwing a baseball or catching a football, it can only be shared. I have positively affected my teams through two simple words **“Let’s GO!”**. These two simple words, said with enthusiasm can make the difference. I’ve had a few parents comment on my courtside enthusiasm and a coach that calls me “a gamer” because I bring energy on and off the court. I have used this ability after a loss to build the team up and get ready for the next game ahead.

I believe I have impacted those around me and made positive affects on their life. I try to use the talents God has given me and I look forward to the next four years at Elder High School where I can continue to grow as a person and find new ways to give back to the community and hopefully ignite energy on courts.