

Meghan Bain - St. Jude - Seton High School

Each day, you get a new 24 hours to make a difference. Every second, you have a chance to make an impact and change people's lives. You are given that chance, but you have to make that choice. You have to choose to be kind, you have to choose to give, you have to choose to love! And although it can be hard at times, you have to overcome the challenge and get better.

So how is it possible that me, an 8th grade girl, could make a difference? Although I haven't raised thousands of dollars for hospitals in Cincinnati or given away 520 scholarships, I have been able to make little differences in my family and the community. When I was about 8 years old, my cousin decided to teach me how to knit. At the time, I wasn't very good at it and it took lots of practice before I finally figured it out. Once I started knitting, I never stopped and I decided to put my talent to use. It was around Christmas time, so I decided to make my grandpa a bright yellow hat. I will never forget the smile I put on his face when I handed him the handmade hat. Before long, everyone I knew had a hat. My mom, my sister, my cousin, and even some of my teachers! And then the coronavirus hit.

At first, I saw this as a dark, devastating time and was disappointed I couldn't do anything or see anyone. However, as time went on, I saw that this could be an opportunity to do something different and make a difference. That's when I got my idea. Originally, I was wondering how I could do something to help out the community during the pandemic, simply by putting smiles on their faces. I decided it had to be something with knitting hats, and that's when it hit me. Instead of making hats for the people in my family and just putting smiles on their faces, I could make hats and donate them to the NICU to put smiles on the doctors and babies faces as well!

After getting the idea, I immediately put my plan into action. I made hats every single day in the summer and worked very hard to ensure my plan would work. The hats started to pile up and I was shocked at the progress I had made. On the last day of summer, I had made over 40 hats to donate to the NICU!

From making these hats, I have made the choice that we all need to make every day. While I did make the choice to be kind by making the hats, and the choice to give by donating them, I most importantly made the choice to do all of it out of love. In the 24 hours God gives me every day, I make the choice to spend each second acting out in love, because the way to make a real difference in the world is to show kindness and love to everyone.