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I've always loved to write. My mom says it's one of my talents because I've always been good with words but writing this has challenged me in ways I didn't expect. My first thought was that I've probably impacted my parents and my grandma the most. I was their first child and grandchild. They say "having a child changes everything" so I guess I affected them. My grandma even moved from Puerto Rico to Ohio to help take care of me. Who does that, right? Everyone has parents and grandparents though, so this didn't seem unique enough to write about.

I've also affected my sisters. I am the oldest of three girls, Isabel is 12 and Alana is 9. Though they would probably never admit it, I know they look up to me. Because I know this, I do my best to be a good role model for them. I am a very disciplined student. I am always respectful, and I do anything my parents tell me without complaining. I am also a role model at school. I have very good grades and I help others at school with schoolwork every chance I get. Being a good role model can be hard sometimes, but how impactful is it?

I thought of some of the things I've done that have had a bigger impact. When I was younger, I asked my parents to make care bags for the homeless. My mom helped me fill large Ziploc bags with socks, coins, snacks, and essentials. Ever since then, we make a few of these any time we head downtown. My family and I also volunteer at A Child's Hope International and at Matthew 25 Ministries. We donate clothes and our time because we know these efforts make a difference. Volunteering is very fulfilling, and it has given me the gift of perspective; reminding me to be grateful for all the blessings I have. But do I volunteer often enough?

I said writing this challenged me because it made me realize we can always do more. One day, I hope to write poetry or a book that affects millions; the way looking at Van Gogh's *Starry Night* awakens hope and dreams for many. I also hope to bring justice to hundreds of families by reaching my goal of working for the FBI's Behavioral Analysis Unit. Until then, I will continue to be the best daughter, granddaughter, sister, and role model I can be. I also plan on serving my community by volunteering and by joining Hands Across Campus at Ursuline Academy, a club whose aim is to help others develop skills to create an inclusive community for all.

I now know we affect the people around us from the moment we are born. One day, my impact may reach far and wide, but I'm glad I don't have to wait to have a positive impact on others. If I approach every interaction with the unconditional love I see from my parents, the selflessness of my grandma, the patience of an older sister, the kindness of a volunteer and the heart of an artist I can leave the world a better place than I found it; we all can.