

**Alexandra Morris- Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary- Ursuline Academy,**

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I have affected people in many ways and the three main categories are Community Involvement, Living My Faith, and Leadership. I have been involved in my community through various things such as Pause, Matthew 25 Ministries, Veterans Day Celebrations, Four Paws for Ability, and Hands Against Hunger. I have also volunteered at local nursing homes, caroling, playing piano, and playing BINGO with residents. I have done these and many other things through my involvement in Random Acts of Kindness, American Heritage Girls, and St. Max Children's Choir which are all clubs I was a part of.

In Random Acts of Kindness, I made blankets and Easter baskets for the Sisters of the Precious Blood, I also participated in helping create a religious board for our school with monthly Bible quotes. During the Christmas season with Random Acts of Kindness, I went to Chesterwood Village, a nearby nursing home where we sang carols for the elderly and made crafts with them. I participated in American Heritage Girls (AHG) for 7 years. While involved in AHG I volunteered at Hands Against Hunger, Matthew 25 Ministries, made plastic yarn which is used to make beds for the homeless, participated in food drives, helped organize many father-daughter dances, and planned mother-daughter events. Because I have food allergies, I was aware that adults and girls could not always eat the food at these events. I knew helping with food accommodations would be something I could do to help others.

Helping at the nursing homes, Pause and Matthew 25 impacted me the most.

Pause is a childcare center inside a nearby church that cares for disabled children and their siblings so parents can have a night for themselves. While at Pause you can do many types of service work. You may be spending time with a special needs child who needs more attention than some of the other kids or working in the dining room where many of the kids come to get dinner. This experience opened my eyes to how hard it may be for the parents of disabled children. I also learned that these kids are incredibly sweet and just want to be able to play, help and make friends, but they have a harder time doing it.

Matthew 25 is a charity that donates food, clothes, and other necessities for people living in our very own Cincinnati to people living in the rural parts of Africa and the world. While there you normally sort clothes or sanitary items. Before you volunteer, they have a tour explaining their work and the people they help. This was very interesting to me because I didn't know about many of the situations that people live in. This helped me to be less judgmental of others. I learned that they might not be able to do anything for themselves, so others need to step up and help them.

Hands Against Hunger is a meal packaging company that ships MRE-type food out. While you are at Hands Against Hunger you pack as many meal packets as you can in one hour. I thought that it was very interesting to pack a full meal kit right in front of me. I have never had an experience like this before and I think it is a fascinating type

of service. In conclusion, these experiences have shaped me into a better person by learning more about others and how they live.

I have lived my faith in many ways. I participated in my parish Choir for 5 years, I have regularly attended Mass since I was 5, I have attended many Vacation Bible School programs and I am currently a Eucharistic Minister at my school, MTCES. I think that my faith has positively impacted my life because it is constant. No matter how I and my interests have changed my faith has always been constant. My faith has made me the person I am. By living my faith in these ways, I hope that I have impacted others. I hope to continue to develop my faith by attending morning prayer services, continuing to be a Eucharistic Minister, and participating in service projects.

The definition of leadership is the action of leading a group of people or an organization. I do this every day by showing that I will step up and take on a task if no one else wants to and lead by example. I am a Eucharist Minister at school which is a job that few people wanted to do. Last year I volunteered to put the American Flag up in the morning and take it down at the end of the day or if it started to rain. I also lead by example in my work ethic in sports. I work very hard for what I have been able to achieve through sports and my grades. I play club volleyball and although I may not be the captain I will step up and try my best to cheer on my team from the sidelines and on the court. I also give 100 percent at each practice and encourage others to do the same. During American Heritage Girls I lead flag ceremonies, father-daughter dances,

and mother-daughter events. I also received an award for leadership at AHG Sunset Camp.

In conclusion, I feel like I have affected many people in many different ways. I have helped people that I will never know or people who I will never meet again. I am very happy to positively impact these people's lives and hope to continue to have a positive impact on the world around me.