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It was an ordinary Sunday at St. Joe's church. While we were waiting for Mass, they were handing out flyers about their upcoming food drive. After we donated food the following week, we reached out the church to get in contact with the food pantry to ask if they needed help unloading donated items. Two weeks later we received a text asking if we could come down to the food pantry and unload cars from a neighborhood donation. After we unloaded the cars, we organized the food, which took about an hour. The person who organized the food pantry said that during January and February he does not receive many donations. A couple of days later I was at dinner with my mom, and I had an idea, what if I was able to help donate to the food pantry through my school and my church? My school has a canned food drive for the "Souperbowl", so I thought to extend that to the church and give the food to the TRAM food pantry. The next week at school I emailed my principal and asked if I could take over The "Souperbowl" canned food drive in February and donate all items to TRAM. I also called the church and asked the priest if I could have the food drive in the vestibule as well. Father Siciliano was happy to let me hold a food drive in the church.

In order to have a successful food drive, I have to do many things. The first thing to do is to let people know that the food drive is happening. I wrote an article for the school Hey Jude newsletter and write an article for the bulletin that includes a list of any food that would be needed and acceptable. Collection bins will be at the end of each hallway and one in front of the office in the school. There will also one bin by each of the main exits and entrances of the church. I will keep the boxes out until after the Superbowl. At the end of the collection, I will take all the items from my school and church to the food pantry and unload them. After we have all the food unloaded, we will organize and stock the shelves of TRAM. This food drive will help the community surrounding TRAM during the cold winter months, when donations are at their lowest. I hope to continue this food drive through high school and maybe even expand it to other community food pantries.

In addition to organizing this local food drive, I have helped prepare and serve dinners for the last two years at Tender Mercies downtown, Cincinnati. Last summer I also stuffed 650 backpacks with school supplies at the downtown YMCA. A wide variety

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of people were there helping kids in need. I was definitely the youngest person there and it made me realize that more younger people should think about helping others.

These are the kinds of things I would like to continue in high school, with the hope of participating in a service immersion trip while at MND. I would like to help make the world a better place for those who are less fortunate than me. It could be something as simple as a smile, or as big as coordinating a food drive. Thank you for considering me for the 2023 Aubrey Rose Foundation Scholarship.