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Throughout my time at Saint Ignatius I feel that I have positively impacted many people around me, from teachers and staff to students. One example of the way I affect others around me is by helping one of the fourth grader students at my school. This boy is in a wheelchair, and it is very difficult for him to get around the school by himself. After my last class of each day I walk up to his homeroom, and help him get out of the building before the rest of the students flood the hallways. He is not quite able to ride the elevator by himself and to push open some of the heavy doors. This simple gesture not only helps him but also his teacher and mom. I have been doing this for a few months now and I feel like I have formed a friendship with him. I look forward to passing him in the hallway each day. Now when I see him, he gets a big smile and yells my name.

Another example of how I positively affect those around me is by helping clear the parking lot of the cones and gates. My mom works at St. Ignatius, the school that my family attends, and after school she has an outside duty which involves moving cones out of the way or moving gates so that cars can pass through the parking lot. Most days I will help my mom and also the other staff outside by doing their duties. They seem to be very grateful for my help and kindness toward them, especially on the rainy days.

I have also been able to affect the younger kids at Saint Ignatius by helping run my school's annual 5K race. For my school's annual 5K, I set up decorations, accessories, and activities for participants who ran in the race. We also started a kids

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dash after the full 5K which was for all of the children under the age of ten that watched their parents in the race. At the end of the kids dash, we handed out medals to all of the kids that ran in the race.

An example of how I affect people around me at home is during my family's annual hot chocolate stand. Each year my family hosts a hot chocolate stand in our garage. All of the donations that we receive when doing this go to an organization that means something to us. The first year we donated to the Arthritis Foundation in honor of my sister's good friend who has juvenile arthritis. The second year we chose to donate to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. We chose JDRF since two of our close family friends were recently diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. Then this past hot chocolate stand we picked the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention in memory of my cousin Jon. Picking the foundation or family to donate to is a special way for me and my family to show our appreciation for those around us. This is a very fun activity that I look forward to each winter. It feels really good to raise money for research and those in need. It is also a good bonding experience with my family while we prepare for the hot chocolate stand. All of the people that support our hot chocolate stand seem very happy that there are people like my family that will put their time into serving others, and I think that is great.

I helped those in my community by participating in one of the Elder days of service at Mitchell Memorial park in honor of Mr. Klusman who died several years ago. He was a teacher at Elder who impacted and cared for others and who valued

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community service and helping others. I thought it was a great way to honor a great person and help out in the community. One last way that I have affected others around me is by helping my friends and family with our Christmas in July project. What I do for Christmas in July is collect toys for the Ronald McDonald House. The Ronald McDonald House is a place for families to stay while their child is in the hospital. Our toy donations are gifted to each child who stays at the Ronald McDonald House. The best part about Christmas in July is delivering the presents to the families staying at the Ronald McDonald House. The past few years we could not go into the building due to COVID, so the employees/volunteers thanked us for our generosity! These are just a few of the ways I have served my school and community.