

- Logan King

The theme for my portfolio is "No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted." This quote was originally said by Aesop; a fabulist who was credited with a number of fables. With my service in the Elementary school, I did many small jobs that to me didn't really seem all that important, but to all the kids and Mrs. Elseser, those small acts meant the world.

Since I can remember, I have absolutely loved serving others. It never mattered to me what the task was; whether it was something important or something simple. All that mattered was doing what I could for whoever needed assistance. While working in Mrs. Elseser's class in the Elementary school, I figured that most of what I did wouldn't really have much of an impact on the lives of the students, let alone Mrs. Elseser. I had only planned on helping out with whatever needed helping with. At the start, I had no idea how much I would learn to love all the kids and how much I would enjoy being there.

Before I explain what I did in the class, I would like to talk a little bit about myself and my family. I am the third child of four. My Father served in the U.S. NAVY for twenty years before retiring in 2006. My Mother is a stay at home mom. I come from a family with deep and strong Christian roots, as everyone in my family is a saved and born again Christian. We are a very close knit family, most of which are from West Virginia, so Southern Hospitality is everywhere in my family; from the food to the down to earth demeanor of everyone in my family. I was raised by both my parents and my Mother's parents to be kind and compassionate towards others and help those in need. My Father taught me about honor and how I am to protect this family from those who would strive to hurt them (through his service in the NAVY) I live and breathe love for others and the desire to help people with whatever they need help with runs through my veins. My faith and family reside in my heart.

I was in seventh grade when I first moved to Perry. I was nervous the first couple weeks, as any new student would be. I was a very quiet kid at the time; kept a lot to myself and didn't really talk to anybody. Nobody really paid any mind to me at first, so I wouldn't try making any new friends.

My situation was about to change very soon, though. It was in my seventh grade social studies class. I was usually silent all through class unless I was called on by the teacher to answer a question. This particular day, however, there was a boy who decided to introduce himself to me during class. He told me his name, and asked for mine. So I gave him my name, and he responded with a smile "It's nice to meet you, Logan." From that point on, he would always say hello to me at the beginning of class and we became friends. That boy was Henry Patricy. Through his small act of kindness, I felt welcomed at this school for the first time and made my first friend.

Working in Mrs. Elseser's kindergarten class, I've learned a thing or two about the importance of doing small tasks. I would always be asked to cut out paper or sharpen pencils while I worked there. I basically did anything that Mrs. Elseser didn't have the time for. Sure, most of the things that I had to do were extremely simple, they were also important for the class as a whole. The other day I was asked if I could cut petals out of red, orange, blue, green and purple construction paper for the kids to make flowers. Something as simple as that is incredibly important for the class. It was something so little, yet there hasn't been a day where Mrs. Elseser hasn't told me how big of a help and a blessing I've been to her and the class. Small acts like that can have such an incredible impact on a person. The kids especially show how much they appreciate my being there and helping them with learning their letters and numbers by drawing pictures for me or saying "thank you" and giving me a hug. They've grown attached to me, and I them.

There is one little girl in particular that I absolutely love in the class. Her name is Haylee, and she is such a sweetheart. There hasn't been a day where I've worked there where she wasn't smiling, and she is always hard at work. Whenever we have a day where she works at a writing station, she would write a sentence then draw a picture. When she finished, she would come up to me and say "here you go" and give me the paper to take home with me. She grew attached to me over the year, and whenever I entered the room she'd ask me "what are you forgetting?" I would say I didn't know, and she would respond with this bright smile "you're forgetting a hug." That makes my days a whole lot brighter. That little girl can turn any of my bad days around just from that one small act of true and honest kindness.

My service in that class is proof positive that every little thing a person does; whether it is simply saying hello to the new kid at school, giving somebody a hug or simply helping somebody with a simple chore, it all has an impact on the people around you as well as yourself.