

Garrett Mahurin

“Make a Difference Day” was observed at this Riverside this past week and we talked about the importance of the day. Every day of the week we completed different activities in our plank to discuss the importance of the day. Monday we had written about what “Make a Difference Day” was and when it was started. Tuesday we were asked if we think you could help someone without money. I still think about this question due to the fact that helping people without money is so difficult. Yes, you can show kindness to them, but sometimes that just is not enough to help people with the situation they are in.

On Friday we were told that we had an assembly. They talked about how there was an anonymous donor who donated money to the school so every high schooler could get \$20. The representative from the Logan County Education Foundation began to talk to us about the importance of this day and how this donor wanted to try and truly spend money helping people in need. Once we were each given the twenty dollars, Dr. Mann talked to us also on why we have to take this seriously, how if he was in a situation he would be thinking the same thing about how his friends would buy him food and he would buy them food. He then began to talk about how he is older now that he does see the importance of this event and the day and how he wants us to also see that. His speech really made me think about how this \$20 we were given was not just a test of your kindness, but it was also a test of our maturity and compassion.

I began to look around and see what people were doing with their money. The one that stuck out the most to me was the people giving the money to one of our friends to try and help pay for his grandmother's funeral. I decided to donate my money to him to help him pay for the expense because no one should ever not be able to properly put a loved one to rest. As a collective, nearly \$400 was raised to help pay for it. To the anonymous donor, I would sincerely

like to thank you for not only allowing us to help someone in need, but to also help us to think about what really matters in life.

Lillianna Meredith

For "Make a Difference Day" we received \$20 each to help someone else who needed the money or an organization that we could donate to. My friend and I put our money together and then added some of our money so we could buy some clothing and toys for four children who needed it. I have taken care of these children before and knew about their home life. It is not the worst, but it is also not the best. There are 3 girls under the age of 5 and one boy who is 9 years old.

On Saturday my mom and I went to the store and started our shopping process for the kids. We ended up getting them each a toy and a couple bath items. I got the two oldest packs of socks as well that night. Then on Sunday after I got off of work, I picked up my friend and we went to Walmart together. We got them each an outfit, a cup, and we got the girls hair accessories, then the last thing we got was the two youngest girls packs of socks as well. We made sure that if we got one thing for one child then we got similar items for the other so they were not left out. We checked out at Walmart and spent \$99.10 total on the four children. After we got back into the car we took tags off and put all of the items into each bag designated for the child.

We drove to their house and knocked on the door. Their mom answered the door and remembered me from before. She welcomed us into her house. The only kids that were home were the two oldest. The babies were sick so they stayed with grandma so the oldest did not get sick and miss school. When we walked in and when she saw me she got very excited. She ran and gave me a hug. I told her I got a gift for her and she was super excited. She opened the gift and right after had a big smile on her face and hugged me again. She said thank you and then hugged me again. When I saw the older brother, I told him that I had gotten him a gift. He was

happy and then sat down to open it. He got super excited when he saw that he had a sonic cup and a couple of shirts and a new toy. He got up with a smile, hugged me again and said thank you. My friend and I asked if we could get pictures taken with the kids and their mom said yes. Got the mothers phone number and sent her the pictures as well.

As the whole process was happening I could not keep a smile off my face. We were happy that we could help the kiddos out and make sure they had stuff for themselves. When we got to the house and gave them their gifts, their reactions warmed our hearts and made us very happy. They were so thankful for this and I was thankful that we got to do something like this to help another family. When we left and got back into the car with my mom, we told her how happy they were and how happy we were for getting to do this for them. My mom was very happy that we did this and went above and beyond for someone who is in need.

Overall, I think that this experience was amazing. Even if it was not an assignment I will be doing it again because it meant a lot to us, and it also meant a lot to mother and her children. Being able to go out and buy these children gifts that are helpful and playful means a lot. I am so thankful that our school was given this opportunity to go out and make someone's day and to just help with whatever it is that they need. I think "Make a Difference Day" is an extremely important day for people all over.

Demi Gonzalez

Our teachers talked to us about “Make A Difference Day” throughout the week prior to the assembly. Then last Friday, we then had an assembly about how a donor had given money to the school and as a result, each high school student would be receiving \$20 to use for a good cause. “Make a Difference Day” is an annual event that takes place across the world and is celebrated on the fourth Saturday of October. My friend group and I, which is about eight other people, put our money together to help another friend. Our friend's mother has been in the hospital for about a week, almost two.

My friend and I have talked about it many times, the late nights she stays up doing homework, doing things around the house while watching her little brother, and trying to stay updated with her mom. Her mom has been sent to many places trying to figure out what has been making her so sick. As a result of everything going on with her mom, my friend has been exhausted from trying to take on her responsibilities at school and from worrying about what is happening with her mom's health. This friend is usually a little happier depending on how much work she has been doing, and it is unusual to see her so down. This friend is constantly doing things for people in the group.

No matter what it is, she is always there with an open hand, listening ears, or just being someone to talk to. I never have to ask her for help; she's always offering or taking action—whether it's cleaning up a spill, returning trays, holding the door, or turning something in for us. I wanted to put my money towards this because she deserves our help, no matter what it is. My thought process was to use the money to help someone who is always helping those in need or those who just look like they could use some help. I know it is not a lot of money, but whatever we can do to help is all that matters.

I hope the money and our help, helps them with whatever they might need during this hard time as a family. I am glad that I could help a friend out, and I am grateful for the \$20 that I was able to put toward something that could make a difference in her life at this time. She has missed the last couple of days, so we are a little behind with giving her the money, but we have planned to write cards and get some flowers in hopes of a better day for her and her mother.

Madison Parker

I used to believe that to make a difference you had to do something big or extraordinary, like donating thousands of dollars to somebody, or buying a homeless person a house. During our school assembly we learned that “Make a Difference Day” is about even the smallest of acts that can mean so much to someone. “Make a Difference Day” is an annual day of community service celebrated on the fourth Saturday of October. It encourages individuals and groups to perform acts of kindness and service to benefit their communities. On this day, we were given the opportunity to donate twenty dollars to a person in need or to a cause. Twenty dollars may not seem like a lot for a donation, but any act of kindness or donation could change someone's life.

When I first received the twenty dollars, I was curious on what to donate it for, there are many options out there. However, when I heard that someone was collecting money for a sick classmate I instantly knew. This classmate has had it hard lately, with constant hospital trips and sickness, I knew that hospital bills could be a problem. Even if it is just twenty dollars it could make a positive impact on the situation, especially since a large number of students donated as well. I imagine that the classmate and their family are happy that a group of students decided to band together and help.

This experience showed me that making a difference is not about how much you give, it is about the heart behind it. Even a small act, like donating twenty dollars, can bring comfort, hope, and connection to someone who needs it. I now understand that change can begin with compassion, and that one small action can start a ripple of kindness that reaches farther than we

imagine. From now on, I want to be someone who acts positively, even in small ways, because every small act of kindness can grow into something extraordinary.

Kristen Thompson

I would like to start this off by simply saying, thank you. You have given not only me, but all of us, such an awesome opportunity. I have never felt so good about myself before now, I am beyond thankful that you gave me this opportunity. For "Make a Difference Day" I gave my money to a man with his dog on a street corner. As soon as I found out that we were getting \$20, I knew I wanted to give it away in the form of material items and make it personalized rather than only giving them money. I also knew I wanted to give it to somebody in need, not an organization, which led me to the act of service I chose.

Saturday evening I was with a friend and we were heading to the mall in Columbus. I had been brainstorming all day what to do with the money, but in the end, I had told myself the opportunity would come to me eventually and it indeed did. We were heading out of the parking lot of the mall and I saw this guy with his dog on the street. He did not have a sign or anything and they were just there sitting under a tree. He had a coat on, but it had holes in it, and the dog had a bowl of dirty water and another dish without any food in it. When I saw this sight I asked my friend to stop, she did not understand why, but I told her I would explain later. I got out and asked the guy if he wanted anything to eat from any neighboring food places. He said yes and then he asked for a whopper and water. I got the items for him and he said thank you, told me it meant a lot to him and that he hoped I had a blessed day. I quickly noticed what he did with the water. He dumped out the dirty water in the dog bowl and poured the drink I had just gotten him into the bowl. The dog immediately started drinking it and it made me feel quite sad.

It was then I realized I was not quite done helping them. I left and went to Walmart, I purchased two blankets, a bag of dog food, a big gallon of water, a variety pack of gatorade, and then some chips. It obviously went a bit over my \$20 dollar budget, but I knew I wanted to help

this man out. I also bought a bookbag that I put all of it in, assuming he could use the bookbag as well. I went back to him and gave him the gift. It was not much, but there were some things I thought could help him from only what I had seen, considering I do not know much about him personally. When he opened it he began to cry, he gave me a hug, and told me God would be looking out for me and that I was an angel. He kept thanking me over and over and it made me feel good to know that it took only about 30 minutes of my day to help someone out drastically and to show them that someone does care about them.

In conclusion, I helped a man and his dog out who were in need. I am very grateful to you for giving us this opportunity. I believe in a sense this has changed my life. By you donating this money I had almost an obligation to donate it. Now that I have seen and experienced how good it feels to give to others, I will continue these acts of kindness, thanks to you, my mysterious donor.

For "Make a Difference Day" I was granted the opportunity to receive a \$20 bill to help out an organization that I thought could use it. My boyfriend and I went on to think about all the options we could have used our money for and we thought the most special one was Christmas Around the World. Our church was hosting this idea and we thought this would be a great opportunity for us to use our money for it. We chose this because the children are not blessed enough to receive christmas gifts and I think it would impact their lives more than we could ever know.

On Sunday night, my boyfriend and I went to the store to pick out gifts for a little girl and boy. We picked out some coloring books with crayons, stuffed animals, balls, toys, a toothbrush and some toothpaste. We thought these things would be perfect for kids who do not receive gifts. These gifts are going to be sent out during Christmas time. I felt this would make kids super happy and make them super grateful for getting these gifts sent out to them.

For "Make a Difference Day" I used my money for an organization that I thought could use it. I bought Christmas presents for kids around the world. I think this was such a great opportunity to have and to use to help others.

Eli Kindle

“Make a Difference Day”

An anonymous donor, to whom I am forever grateful, donated enough money to ensure that each student attending Riverside High School received \$20 to make a difference in another person's life for “Make a Difference Day.” There were endless possibilities as to how I could spend this \$20 on another person. I thought of putting money together with friends to buy a coat for someone in need or donating to a non-profit organization that revolves around suicide prevention. There was no correct answer. I just needed to make a difference.

Thereafter, I thought of my friend and her sister who were in and out of the hospital. I did not hesitate for one second to donate the \$20 to their family. In order to get the money to them, I gave it to their cousin who then gave it to the students' mother. This anonymous donor has inspired me to be a little more selfless. To this donor, I can only say thank you. Thank you so much for providing the students at Riverside High School with a unique way of making a difference. This kind gesture encouraged me realize that I should be helping others on any given day, not just on “Make a Difference Day.”

To summarize this selfless gesture, Riverside High School was challenged to make a difference in others' lives. I used this money to donate to a family who is facing an overwhelming amount of medical expenses due to their children being in and out of the hospital. Even though we do not know who the donor is, they have forever touched the lives of someone else, and have truly made a difference in another life.

Gunner Carpenter

For “Make a Difference Day” I was flooded with ideas, but one stuck out the most to me. It’s called “Adopt a Family.” This is an organization where a family who is in need can be “adopted.” Once a family is assigned, a description of the family is given so things can be purchased for them. I think this is a great idea and a wonderful organization to donate the money to in order to make a difference in people’s lives.

The idea of donating the money to this organization came about after talking with my teacher and FFA advisor. We were talking about how we could raise a lot of money by getting as many students as we can to donate their twenty dollars. The FFA officers thought this was a great idea too. I also talked to a fellow classmate about what she was doing with the money she received and she said, “we are looking to find an organization to give it away to.” I shared my idea of adopting a family with her and she thought it was a great idea. She also said that she would talk with our principal about it. Our principal loved the idea and agreed to send an email to the entire sophomore class. Knowing that we were able to share our idea with all of my classmates lit a fire in my heart knowing that we can make a much bigger difference in someone’s life who is struggling. I will be keeping track of the money and then give it to our Ag teacher so the FFA officers can then get together to spend it on this family.

In conclusion, for “Make a Difference Day,” the idea of adopting a family will bring much joy to a family in desperate need. I am very happy that the idea of donating the money grew from talking with my classmates so they all could join in as well. I hope to make a difference in someone's life who will remember it forever.

Syler Clark

Have you ever been handed \$20 to see what good you could do with it? I was fortunate enough to have this opportunity. We were told the good news that an anonymous donor had made it possible for each student in our high school to receive twenty dollars to help someone else out. I decided to give the money to someone who has been struggling for the past month. I honestly felt very good about it because it made me feel like I was doing more than just giving them money; it felt more important than that because I was making a difference for them

As you may know, \$20 nowadays does not get you as far as it used to. However, what happens if you combine the money you get with other people? Well, that is exactly what we did. A couple of friends and I combined the money we had been given so we could help out our friend's cousin, who has not been feeling the best and is dealing with some serious health problems. At first, we did not really know what to get her, but while we were at Walmart, we decided to get her a couple of blankets, some candles, and money on gift cards. This really brought a smile to her face when my friends and I went to her house and dropped off everything that we had gotten for her.

This was a great experience and a really good way to see what we could do with the money. I am thankful that we had this special opportunity because it really brought my classmates and I together as one big group, like a family, to make what we had been given even better than what we could have simply been able to do by ourselves. It was amazing to see all of the people who came together to give a gift to a friend who really needed it. I hope we get to do something special like this again in the future. I will certainly do what I can to continue to help others who are in need as much as I possibly can.

Molly Carman

What was done with the money donated to Riverside Schools?

During school every student was given some money to put it towards a good cause. Everyone except me. I am very ill as of the moment and did not know any of this was happening. One day after school I heard a knock at the door and heard all of my brother's friends thinking it was just for him. After a little I heard I needed to come into the room. What I saw was unexpected, four young boys from my school with flowers, blankets, candles, a card and some gift cards! The gift cards combined were three-hundred dollars. That to me is crazy! They also got us very nice blankets and flowers that must have cost some money!

It definitely made my day, seeing that people from my school were caring for me. It was nice to talk to some people after not being able to go or see anyone. We all collectively had a nice chat and it truly felt good to talk to people outside of my family. It made me feel good to know that people cared and they are looking out for me. It truly made me realize how good of students we have at Riverside.

Lillian Zwiebel

When I was listening to the assembly I was at first very surprised by the fact someone would do this just for our school, it made me feel proud for our school. Once we had time to think I had so many ideas pop up in my head, it was honestly really hard to pick just one. I am very honored and forever thankful for this amazing opportunity that was given to my school. We don't talk about this kind of stuff all the time and it really gives us a chance to look at all the ways we could make a difference no matter how small or how big. Anything can change someone's life!

On "Make a Difference Day" I talked to my mom about my neighbours. My neighbors are an elderly couple. They are amazing and super caring people. Last week my family was eating dinner when we heard an ambulance drive by our house. Us being nosy we looked out our window, the wife fell and got hurt. The next morning we went over to check to see how the husband was doing, he said he can't drive so he couldn't go see her until his daughter picked him up. He was at the hospital that night but had to come home to take care of their dogs. We came inside and he told us she is supposed to be home by Friday, maybe Saturday. As the week passed we continued to visit him and do anything he needed help with. When I got home from school Friday, I stopped by like I always do and she was home but she was on bed rest. That's when I thought of what I was going to do. I spent my twenty dollars on making a meal and flowers for my neighbors. I could tell that they were in need of it. The husband was really stressed about all the paper work and taking care of his wife. I made lasagna in a pan with some cookies, and bought the wife a vase and a bouquet of flowers. When I got there to drop off the food and flowers. I could see the relief in the husband's eyes, he kept saying thank you. I found out that he was so worried about his wife that he forgot to buy groceries for that week. I'm so thankful I got

Maria Wick

Make a Difference Day

What I chose to do with the money was to give it to someone in need. Yesterday, I went to Columbus for an appointment and stopped at Kroger afterwards. As we got out of the car and started walking toward the entrance, I saw a person with a shopping cart that had a lot of personal items in it, sitting on a bench beside the entrance. I asked him if I could get him anything that would help him out and he asked for water. I told him I would be right back, and I was. Not just with water, but with food that would last him for a bit, and a blanket.

As I gave this man the things that I had bought him, he had a smile on his face and repeated over and over how grateful he was. He asked me what my name was, and so I told him and offered the question in return. His name was Greg. Greg told me a little bit about himself and how he had 2 kids. I listened and offered to help him move his things some more, but he wouldn't let me. Again, he told me how grateful he was and then we had to say bye.

I felt very privileged to have been able to make a difference in someone else's life. I got back into my car, feeling a little guilty that I couldn't help even more than I had. Though overall, I felt very good to have been able to help someone else out along with making a friend in the process.

Leah Parrett

When I was given the \$20 I was not sure what I wanted to do with it. There was not something that came into my mind that was a definite answer for me so I decided to just let it choose me. I knew whoever needed the money God would lead them to me and he did. Sunday I was working self-checks, and this guy came to check out he had a loaf of bread, some lunch meat and cheese and some snacks and frozen meals. Just the things that a person needs to get them by in life. He also had a big bag of cat food.

He had used three different types of payments for his transaction. He had an insurance card, food stamps card and also five dollars in cash. He did not have much money on these cards to cover his whole order, food stamps covered some of the food items and his insurance card only covered his soap. He did not have enough for the rest of his items in his card, so he called me over to ask me if I could cancel his order for the things he could not afford. He wanted me to take off all the items he needed for himself so he could get the catfood for his cat.

I had said “ No sir it’s OK, I can pay for the rest of your items and you can keep the change what’s left of the \$20. “ He kept thanking me and how much he appreciated me helping him and how thankful he was for me. I said you are welcome but I gave this money to “ change” someone’s life who needed it more than I did and to do good with the \$20 bill. That’s how the \$20 bill I had made a difference.

Chase Conrad

I decided to donate to the Wounded Warrior Project for my Make a Difference Act. I was originally having a hard time deciding what to do with the \$20, thinking of any good act that wasn't simple or common. I wanted something more specific, so I chose to donate to the Wounded Warrior Project, knowing that they help veterans and that I, myself, will be a veteran someday too. So I wanted to help the Wounded Warrior Project, hoping that they would help me too in the future.

When I brought this idea to my mother, she wanted to match a donation with mine. I asked her if it was okay if I could donate to the company, and that I would pay her back in full. So we used her PayPal to donate a total of roughly \$41, tax included. I paid her back in full \$20 as promised, then I thanked her and began writing this.

I feel good about what I've done because I know this is a good company that helps veterans with finances and such. And I hope that goodwill will be returned to me when I need help from the WWP.

Kara Klingler

This past Friday, an unexpected act of generosity transformed Riverside High School into a launchpad for change in every direction. Every student received a 20 dollar bill, courtesy of an anonymous donor and the Education Foundation, with one singular instruction: find someone who needs this money more than you do. This was their "ticket" to participate in National Make a Difference Day. As students signed for their money on the auditorium stage, their minds were already racing, turning to simple individual questions, "Who can use this?" into a collective, community-wide brainstorming session that ranged from paying off an electric bill to reaching those with the greatest, most personal need.

The true impact of the challenge emerged as students realized the power of combining their funds to create a significant donation. Instead of individually spending, students began pooling their resources, amplifying the anonymous donor's generosity. My friend group, for example, quickly combined our money into an envelope containing 140 dollars. We decided to dedicate this amount to our friend, Makayla Hurley, whose mother is currently hospitalized with an undiagnosed, severe medical condition. To ensure the full 140 dollars goes directly to help with mounting hospital bills, we are using our own personal money to purchase flowers and a card for a more personal touch.

While 140 dollars will not settle all the medical debt, the goal of this gesture is not merely financial; it is about injecting hope and showing solidarity within our community. The entire school is incredibly grateful for the trust the anonymous donor placed in us to be agents of change. This project demonstrated that a small seed of 20 dollars, when rooted in genuine compassion and multiplied by collaboration, can create a substantial ripple effect. The students

Morgan Shockey

Make a Difference Day

Make a difference day is an annual celebration of acts of community service and kindness. Riverside was given the profound opportunity to learn about and partake in this day. A kind anonymous donor, to whom I wish nothing but the best, donated \$20 to each high school student trying to see just how they would benefit communities with this amount. This made me jump with joy as I was finally given the push to do something I had been wanting to do for a while. I had no excuses, no "I'll do it when I have more money." Now, I make excuses as to why I should make a difference everyday because everyday is a good day when you build endorphins by being kind.

With this \$20, I personally decided to spread the money thin. I matched the money with my own, making a total of \$40. With this money I was then able to buy 60 roses. I subsequently spent my own time and energy writing 60 notes of kindness. After that, I headed over to Wilson Hospital, placing a note and a rose on 60 cars. With the push to do something kind, and the \$20 starting amount, 60 peoples days got a little brighter.

Although I did not make a grave impact on one or two particular families, I made a small meaningful act of kindness on a variety of people, who are going through numerous things. As a future human rights attorney who spends my time thinking of ways to benefit those in need, this brought me fulfilment and content. Imagine people who went into the hospital as two and came out as one. Imagine the people who went in with a decorated nursery and had to come out to take the decorations down. Imagine all sorts of people whose sky got a little less cloudy all because of one donor and a holiday I did not know existed until now.

Brody Lockfort

When I had gotten the \$20 I had came up with a thought of going over to my friends house In Bellefontaine and we had the idea to give food to the homeless so what we did is that we combined the \$20 that I had gotten and whatever he had wanted to contribute with it and we went to Columbus because my friend knows his way around Columbus and it was easiest to help there.

My friend and I bought cheese burgers for homeless people from McDonald's. We started to hand them out and we talked to them, learning a lot about them. They were very grateful for the food because a few of them said they had not eaten for a couple of days and that they were grateful.

After we had given out the food, we were very happy. In my opinion there is not enough kindness in the world and that there needs to be more because you can learn a lot about the homeless people and that they all have unique backstories but the main thing is that we had a great feeling after giving out food.

A'Liyah Johnson

When I heard that someone was donating 20 bucks to every high school student at Riverside, I was so confused why they trusted us so much. Throughout the week I heard a couple kids say they were going to keep it for themselves. I also heard kids say they were going to give it to their moms or put their money together. I started to think about it more and more. What was I going to do with the 20 dollars?

When everyone got their 20 dollar bills, people were talking about what they wanted to do with the money. Some people were talking about using it on themselves. Then the lady gave a little inspirational talk about how we shouldn't be mischievous and do good with the 20 dollars. Then kids started putting their money together to raise money for their family's funerals or even for a student that is going through a lot and that needs help with hospital bills.

I personally thought a lot about what I was going to do with my 20. I decided to donate it to my friend that recently this school year got shot. Her family isn't that fortunate and is in need of help with the hospital bills and food. They have been staying in the hospital with her ever since this horrible shooting has happened. They are needing all the prayers they can get. But just by me donating that money I hope it helps them through this tragic time. By doing this activity it makes me feel better to put a little extra in someone else's bucket.

Brenden Lattimer

Make a Difference Day is where people around the world come together and do good things to other people and the planet. As I was the first to get my twenty dollars, I started to think about what I would do with it. I had some ideas like donate to an orphanage, buy some food for random people at the game, and split the money between my friends. I had so much I wanted to do but I only had twenty dollars to donate. Doing multiple things was difficult, so I tried thinking of one thing to put all the money towards. I came up with giving it away to random people that walked by me. I split the twenty into ones and went to this Halloween fair and just handed out the money to random people that walked by.

When I gave the money to the people that walked by me, they had different reactions to me giving them a dollar. I gave one to this little girl and she had a big smile and her mom thanked me. After a bunch of people, this one kid just needed some money for food but he didn't have enough, so with the five dollars I had left, I gave it to the kid to buy his favorite food and drink. His mom came over a few minutes after he bought it and thanked me saying I was a nice kid.

Make a Difference Day isn't just about what we do, it's about why we do it. It's a chance to reflect on the needs around us and recognize our power to help. When we act with feeling, even humble resources like \$20 can change someone's life. The real value lies not in the money itself, but in the intention behind it. So whether you're donating, volunteering, or simply offering a smile, remember that you don't need a fortune to make a difference. You just need a heart.

Lei Hurley

Make a Difference Day

With the twenty dollars I received from the donation at the Make a Difference Day assembly, I purchased items to put in a shoe box for Operation Christmas Child - Samaritan's Purse. The Operation Christmas Child - Samaritan's Purse is one of the many projects of the Samaritan's Purse International Relief Foundation that gives shoe boxes to churches, clubs, schools, and anyone who would like to donate so that they can fill it up with items that a child who is struggling needs, and give them to children around the world in the hopes of also spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

These donations and shoe boxes are a cause I truly believe in because I have watched my family and other members of my church, and even random people around me, make even as little as twenty dollars go a long way in these shoe boxes. They are special because anyone can contribute to this project or any other project for the Samaritan Purse International Relief Foundation. In my box, I put things like reusable water bottles, color pencils, drawing books, reusable silverware, sunglasses, and a small stuffed animal.

This morning I woke up at 6 am to get reading and went to Bellefontaine to get a coffee for my sister, friend, and I, and the total came to be twenty dollars and twenty-three cents. In one morning for three overpriced coffees, I paid just as much as the twenty dollars I received on Friday. We spend our money so easily on things we do not need when that money could make a huge difference in someone's life. These shoe boxes genuinely change the lives of people who are starving and living in poverty. They only dream of having our daily "problems" like having too much homework, getting a smaller tip than we deserve, and running out of our favorite perfume. I don't think that you should give every single penny you earn away; however, I do

Gracelynn Owen

“Make a Difference Day” is about making a difference in someone else's life. On Friday, an anonymous donor gave us each \$20 to spend on someone else in order to help them in a positive way. They said no judging on what someone else wants to do with it and told us we have this weekend to spend it. I decided to give the money to my three neighbors and my grandma..

On “Make a Difference Day,” I decided to make something for my three neighbors. I decided to put together gift bags for my neighbors, so I used the money to buy cloth markers, blank bags, and badges. My first neighbor is getting a bag with cheer and football for their kids' game because their daughters cheer and their son does football. My second neighbor is getting a bag with a heart and a Bible verse on it for church. My third neighbor is also getting a bag with cheer items in it too. Then we bought a Whopper from Burger King for my grandmother so she had something to eat. I tried to help more than one person.

Overall, it was a good experience to participate in this day. Honestly, I think every day everyone should do something nice for someone else. For example, I try every day to help and do something for my neighbors or friends. I am glad I gave the money to my three neighbors and my grandma so I could be helpful. I am thankful that I was able to do these nice things for them and it made me feel very good.