

“I Want to Make a Difference Because...”

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I want to make a difference because I believe I have been given gifts and talents that should be shared with others. Each person only has one chance to live life; therefore, he or she should make a difference daily to better her life as well as to touch others. Making a difference does not require large accomplishments; a difference can be made each day in the way we live our lives. For example, a teacher has the opportunity to make a difference in a student’s life through showing they care while they teach.

For the last five years, I have had the opportunity of working with children in various capacities through my church and school. These experiences have been life changing as they have influenced my decision to pursue a teaching career. I have realized that the love I have for children, my organizational skills, and my caring personality are all gifts that have been bestowed for me to use in order to reach out to others. Teaching at various church activities and through my Teacher Cadet program at school has reinforced my calling in education.

Last semester, I had the opportunity of working with first graders at a local school. One child in particular had a difficult home situation which was obvious in the way that it affected his school experience. As I got to know him, I began to sense that the caring I provided was not familiar to

him. One day, the young boy told me that he loved me; I replied, sincerely, that I loved him back. In the days that followed, he would whisper in my ear, “Do you really love me?” Seeing his eyes quickly brighten and the big smile that followed when I said, “Of course I do,” made me realize I possibly was making a difference in his life. However, it also made a difference in mine knowing that a simple act of caring had the potential to impact his life.

Think about the people that impacted your life growing up. All of us have favorite individuals and memories that we quickly recall. When I think about the people that have impacted my life, besides my parents, it is individuals who have been a “teacher” through my church, school, or sports. My hope is I can use my talents that I have been given to influence others just as those who have made a difference in my life.

Marian Wright Edelman once said, “We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee.” I may never know how my actions affect another person, but if I use my God-given talents in service to others, then I will have the satisfaction of knowing my efforts were of value to others.