

## True Leaders Have No Boundaries

“Great leaders don’t set out to be leaders. They set out to make a difference.” Although I am still young and sometimes would like to do more than I can at my age, I have come to realize that making a difference does not necessarily mean doing something grandiose. The little, everyday things I do to inspire others in my life—whether at home or at school—count as much towards the development of a vigorous community as those carried out by influential public leaders.

At home, I have many responsibilities. However, my most important leadership role—and one I take great pride in doing—is being a big sister. Although our age difference is a mere two years, I have always felt it is my duty to take my sister under my wing. When we were younger, we would play together for countless hours. I would protect her from harm’s way and always make sure she felt included when she was around my friends. Now that we are older, I help her cope with the increased responsibilities, schoolwork and challenges that come along with growing up. As a caring older sister who has already gone through the preteen phase, I try to guide my younger sister every chance I get. I lead by example rather than by telling her what to do. I talk with her, not to her. I listen. I explain. I encourage. I am her mentor. I can say, with confidence, that because of my interactions with her, my sister is and will continue to be a caring, compassionate and active member of our community.

Another way I can make a difference by being a leader in my community is by embracing my current full-time job which is being a student. At school, I strive for excellence and yearn for knowledge and understanding. I am a straight-A student and try to actively participate in community outreach programs. I am a member of a community service group called Tiny Saints. I enjoy public speaking and serve at Mass. I eagerly serve as a group leader for class projects when asked to do so. I have a Kindergarten reading buddy and have helped her overcome her shyness. In addition, I like to play team sports. I am part of my school’s volleyball team. On the court, I show leadership through my great determination, grit and sportsmanship. As a leader at school, I have great work ethic. I know when to be vocal and when to remain silent. I speak for myself and others. I am inclusive. I foster teamwork and bring positive energy to those around me.

Although many times a thankless job, being a leader comes naturally to me. Helping others put their ideas into action for the greater good is just part of who I am. Whether at home, at school, or any chance you get, I believe in making a difference every day, little by little. That is the true recipe for a prosperous community.