

Sophie Meinhardt Memorial Scholarship 2013

Katie Kroger

St. Jude

I have done many helpful things, but the one that brought happiness to someone else was helping out at Rost. Rost is a school for kids who can't walk, talk, or eat on their own without an adult helping them out. This school gives them an opportunity for them to get better and have personal assistants all day, who help them with the struggles in their life.

I was in fifth grade when we were asked to help put on a show with some of their students. I was willing to help out with whatever they needed help with. A group of people were chosen by our religion teachers to help out by learning a dance while pushing students who were in a wheelchair, and that group included me. After a few weeks we started our first practice. I was scared because I have never really pushed a wheel chair and I was afraid that I was going to mess up, but my friends were there with me and they told me I would do great. As soon as I walked in I smiled. I smiled because I saw seven kids in a wheelchair smiling at me. I felt like I was changing their lives and from that moment on I knew I could do it.

The theme of the performance was the 80's, so we did a Beatles song. We got paired up and started rehearsing. When the song came on we started to dance. When we started to dance my partner was smiling and laughing, and that brought joy to my face but, mostly happiness to my heart. Words cannot describe how I felt, it was like meeting a celebrity, and I wanted the kids to feel loved and to have fun with us. A couple practices later, we got with our partners and started working on bracelets for the students. This was really fun because we were rewarding them with our love and thoughts for them. We also got to make headbands which were really fun, because we made them out of bandanas and when I put mine on my partners head she looked so cute and she was also smiling. I then realized that if she is smiling when times are bad, then there is nothing I can't do.

It was the night of the show and everyone was excited to start dancing. So when the announcement came on to take a seat, we got in our places. Then it was our cue. So we got on stage and got in our position to dance, and when the music came on we did our routine. It was so fun we all did great, but I didn't really care if I did great, because I just wanted for my partner to have had a blast with me, and I think she did.

Helping out at Rost not only made me a better person, but it helped me realize that sometimes the hardest things in life aren't the hardest, it's the way you handle it that makes it a challenge.