

# Kaley D. Lather

2008 Make A Difference Award Essay  
By: Kaley D. Lather

Hi! My name is Kaley Diane Lather and I am an 8th grade student at Ft. Myers Middle Academy. I am writing this essay to show you some of the reasons why I feel I have made a difference in my community. I hope when you read this, that you will feel that way also.

First of all, I was involved in Girls in Action at McGregor Baptist Church for 6 years. This program is an all girls class whose primary focus is learning about missionaries in other countries as well as in America. We filled shoe boxes with school supplies and personal hygiene items and sent them overseas to children who needed them. We also hand-made Christmas gifts for senior citizens each year and took them to local nursing homes where we sang Christmas carols and visited with the residents! They loved watching us! I really learned a lot about giving to others by being involved in GA's and was proud of my accomplishment of completing this program!

During 2006 and 2007 I was a Girl Scout in Troop #691 with Roxana Hambleton as my troop leader. We earned patches for every volunteer project that we did. For instance, I earned a patch for Breast Cancer Awareness month in October. Part of this project was to call 8 adult women in your life that you were close to and remind them of the importance of mammograms. I also received a smoking awareness patch and a friend in my troop's grandmother actually quit smoking after her granddaughter told her about the disturbing effects of smoking. We were so excited! Our troop also worked with the local postal carriers in the canned food drive for local charities. We had to go to the Page Field Airport and unload cans and distribute them. I had so much fun doing this and I felt good about myself for helping out in the community.

During Christmas break of 2007, I went with a group of volunteers from First Assembly of God to Centennial Park where we set up crock pots full of hot chicken noodle soup and apple cider. We were able to feed over 30 men and women, we sang Christmas songs together and also gave them blankets. It was a very cold night but after we left, we



definitely felt warm inside!

As far as my hobbies go, I have been a dancer for 12 years. I try and help my dance teacher out as much as I can! I volunteer every Friday night teaching younger kids dances. I have so much fun doing this and hope to one day start my own class! I love going to the studio on Friday nights, it's the only place I want to be! This year, we did several Christmas performances at local nursing homes and it was so cute when the residents would get up and dance with us!

I also try my best at school each day to be a good role model, a good friend and respectful to my teachers. I hope that I have been able to share with you a little about me and I hope that you will consider me for your Make A Difference Award!

