

The gifts I have received from God that I use to benefit other people are my strength and artistic abilities. I am blessed with many gifts but I mainly use my strength. My strength has helped me and others through so much in life. My artistic abilities bring me happiness that enable me share the happiness with others. My gifts help me grow closer to my family, friends, and people I don't even know.

My strength has helped me and others so much and I thank God almost every day for it. When thinking back on my life there was one period of time that stands out the most because it was very difficult, it was when my parents first got divorced. There were many times my sister would come running up to me crying with tears rolling down her cheeks. She would look up at me and would say, "I don't know what to do." I wanted to sit down and start crying with her! I didn't and I couldn't because I needed to be strong for her. My strength took over and I said, "Ashley don't worry, mom and dad seem like they don't like us or each other right now but they love us with all their hearts. In a few months mom and dad will be happier than they have ever been and you will see that big bright smile again on mom's face." Without my strength and support my sister would still be hurt, sad, and miserable. Offering strength and support to my sister helped me grow to be a stronger person too. I knew she needed me and I couldn't let her down.

I am not a professional artist or even close to it but I am gifted with good crafting skills. I love craft making! I use my craft making skills to help others like my great grandma. She is 93 years old and was able to drive until about 9 months ago. So one day I asked my mom if I could go over and spend time with her. I brought my craft bag so we could do a craft together. We made a bowl out of melted perler beads. She absolutely loved it! When I was leaving she said it was one of the most enjoyable things she has ever done. It made me feel so happy to know that I had made her day more exciting and enjoyable with my crafts.

I also use my artistic/crafting skills to do service hours. I have made turkey boxes for people to put can goods in for the less fortunate. Also, I have made Valentine's Day bags along with cards for children at Saint Joseph Orphanage. I love how I can use my every day skills to help others and make them feel special.

God has given me many gifts and I cherish each gift every day.