

I believe a huge part of living out your faith is sharing your gifts with others, and teaching others how to utilize their gifts as well. One of my gifts is that I can write really thoughtful notes to my family and friends. When people I know are down, don't feel good, or are acting differently from how they normally do; I write them really nice and thoughtful notes that bring them up and make them feel good about themselves. I hate seeing my family and friends sad or upset, that's why I try to lift their spirits every chance I get.

The last two years have been very emotional for me, as my parents divorced and were in a bitter custody battle. I know how it feels to be sad, angry, unsure, unwanted, and like everything is your fault. It has taken many hours with my counselor to deal with my emotions, and I am still working through it today. Through it all, I've had the best support I could have from my father, step-mother, and my older sister. So when people around me feel the same as I have, I get it. I write Post-It notes to remind them how important, worthy of love, and that they are perfect just the way they are.

I never want my friends and family to ever feel the way I have in the past. It brings me great joy for the people I care about to read my notes and see the smile come across their face. You can see the worry or stress melt away when they find my note of love and encouragement. I hope they will always remember they are worth every ounce of love and care that is out there. I want them to remember they have their very own gifts they can use to help not only themselves, but others, like they have me. It also makes me happy when I see all the notes my dad keeps in his lunchbox or my step-mom keeps stuck to her laptop.

I hope the people I give notes to keep them so in the future, they read them when they are upset and need to smile. I know they know I am here for them whenever they need me; to talk or just spending time to get their mind off whatever is wrong. Thank you so much for sharing your story and your gift of giving so students, like me, can continue our education at St. Al's.