

“How do I demonstrate integrity in the way I give of my time, talents, and money?”

I feel fortunate to be surrounded everyday by people with integrity. Integrity is the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles. It is more than doing good deeds because you have to, it is the act of doing good deeds because you want to. One of my favorite quotes states: “Integrity is not something you show others, it is how you behave behind their back.” Integrity can be interpreted wrong, some people think that integrity is shown when you do good deeds, but it is when you do good deeds for the betterment of others, not for the betterment of yourself.

I have grown up surrounded by good people, who are amazing role models, and have taught me the attributes of integrity. Even when it is hard, I try to do everything with integrity. I donate my time in many different ways. For example on Christmas Eve, I go to the Muncie Fire Department and give toys to kids who don't get a special Christmas. I help my mom tutor kids at school, and I volunteer at the Muncie Animal Shelter. I also donate my time by watching my little sister, helping friends with homework, and I help my mom clean. When I know I'm donating my time for good, it makes me feel good to know I am helping.

Not only do I show integrity when I donate my time, I also show integrity when I donate my talents. I have many talents, and I enjoy sharing them with the world. I have shared them in many different ways. For example, I share my talent of singing at church. I share my talent of writing when I write stories for people, and I share my talent of leadership when I stand up for the right thing. My talents are also shared with the world when I play the clarinet for my family and when I tell jokes to my

friends. When I do these things, I realize integrity is not about grand gestures, but doing small things that can make a difference.

Integrity can also be shown in sharing your money with others. As a child I do not have a regular income, but when I do get money I enjoy sharing it. Integrity can be shown through giving away hard earned money, or a gift, for those who could use it. When you donate your money or give a gift, you do not have to give all your money, or get the most expensive gift for someone. It is not the amount of money that you give, it is the thought that counts and the act of helping others. I show integrity in the many different ways I give or help raise money. For example: I help at the concessions stand to raise money for the 8th graders to go to Washington D.C. At church every Sunday, I donate money to those in need, and I donate money to the hungry by donating cans of food to food drives.

One of my favorite quotes is: "Do what is right not what is easy". This quote tells me that it is easy to be tempted into doing the easy thing and not what is right, it also shows me that I should go the extra mile in everything that I do. The world is big and is filled with lots of people, and some people don't think integrity is right or easy. Each day I will try to change that one step at a time.

Word Count: 589