

Anna's Bookshelf

By Dave Frey

Anna Meyers is an All Saints Academy graduate who took service seriously. In short, she saw a need, felt a call, and acted.

It all started when one of Anna's friends who owned a laundromat talked about putting books out for the customers' kids to read. One kid then asked if he could keep the book and that is when Anna's heart broke. She came up with the idea of Anna's Bookshelf. Anna started keeping books from her own collection at the laundromat, and kids would take them if they wanted. Anna realized this was a good idea and then started collecting new and gently used books and distributed them throughout the whole city to kids who had no or very little access to books through her two bookshelves. She even has a lot of books that are written in Spanish for all of the kids whose families speak Spanish. There are two locations for her bookshelves which are at the Counseling and Advising Center at Grand Rapids Community College and the laundromat. Anna's Bookshelf has been recognized by Barack Obama, and she received a message from him saying how important reading is and how great it is for children.

Anna strongly believes that ASA has helped teach her the importance of service and giving back to the community. Anna says that ASA's four core values of faith, learning, loving, and serving are very important because we must serve and

help the community and love one another. Her Catholic faith has inspired her to spread love and help those in need and do all of the amazing things she has done through Anna's Bookshelf. Since Anna loves books, she wanted to help kids learn how to read and practice reading since it can benefit them later in life.

Some advice Anna would like to give to students at ASA is to hold on to friends since they will be friends for life in the end and they will be there for you. Another piece of advice from Anna is to find something that you love and are passionate toward and use that gift to help the community, those in need, and others you know.

Anna has just finished her first year at Central Michigan University where she is part of the Honors Program and is majoring in meteorology and is minoring in math. Once she graduates, she plans to be an on-air meteorologist at a TV station. Anna also hopes to be able to spend her time on air and speak to the public. She would love to draw attention to not just reading, but to social justice and humanitarian issues too.

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