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# The Circle of Love

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## The Circle of Love

I believe in love and empathy, which, in turn, helps to spread happiness through the people that I touch. Loving someone, and being loved back, is the best feeling in the world. I believe everyone – black or white, cat or dog, child or adult – deserves to experience this feeling, along with the inevitable happiness that it brings.

I am a very fortunate eighteen-year-old girl, and I have encountered love in many forms. I have two parents (I am convinced they are the best parents in the world) who shower me with love, a brother who I consider to be my best friend, two huggable cats who spend most of their days with me, a boyfriend who cares for me and treats me with respect, and friends who I trust and adore. I believe that because I am blessed with love and enchantment, I should share my heart with others around me. Hopefully, my good deeds and genuine actions of charity will inspire whomever I touch to help someone else, too.

For example, my two cats, Olly and Lu-bear, are the best friends I could ever ask for. Because I feed them every morning, cuddle with them each night, and play with them when they want to run around, we have a special relationship. Essentially, when I am home, they are with me. If I'm in the basement, they are, too, and when I'm sleeping, they are sleeping right next to me. Although they may not be human, they deserve love simply because they, too, have feelings. The process is circular and reinforcing. Since I have taken the time out of my day to make sure they are happy, they make sure I'm happy. I have touched their lives, so they have touched mine in return.

Here's another example. I was walking in the city just a few days ago, and an older woman in a wheel chair was finding it difficult to get up onto the sidewalk. I immediately sprinted over and pushed her up. She was so grateful that I had abruptly left my friends that she offered to buy me lunch. Of course, I declined to accept, but once again, kindness beget kindness. She scooted away with a smile on her face, and I knew her day had just gotten a little brighter. Although my effort was miniscule, I was sure she was going to help someone else in return.

Everyone has a gift to offer the world. Some people may create inventions, or donate millions of dollars to charity, while others may offer simpler contributions, such as providing homes to animals, or opening doors for the elderly. My gift is love. Although the impacts may be small, if I make even one person happy each day, that is 365 people in one year. Each seemingly inconsequential gesture of kindness produces quiet ripples, and if everyone acted in kind, there would be a tidal wave of happiness spreading throughout the world.