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Last Updated: 6:39 am | Friday, May 25, 2007

## Student devoted to service

BY HOWARD MCEWEN | ENQUIRER CONTRIBUTOR

### COVINGTON -

When Covington Latin School senior Brittaney Knapp, 16, accepts her diploma at the Cathedral Basilica on Saturday, she will know she did well in high school.

She also will know she did a lot of good.

Knapp committed 700 hours to community service while at Covington Latin. More than 390 of those hours were during her senior year.

"I started volunteering for various events and found myself enjoying the service activities more and more," Knapp said.

"I almost feel guilty for recording my time because not only do I help others but I have benefited so much from doing what I do.

"I have met new people, learned new skills, had fun and have experienced the pleasure of helping others," she said. "Helping others is what it is all about."

Knapp spent her time as a Day Captain at the Newport Aquarium, working at St. Elizabeth Medical Center, and tutoring at St. Augustine Elementary in Covington.

"I get a great deal of enjoyment out of helping others, whether it be helping a child with reading and math skills or providing education to a family enjoying a day out at the aquarium," Knapp said.

"Every activity that I do, I seem to enjoy just as much as the people that I am helping. To me, helping others just seems like the right thing to do.

"My parents always said to me, 'Help others for the right reason - not for any type of personal gain.' This has always stuck with me and has guided me with my volunteering activities."

At St. Augustine, Knapp tutored struggling readers. Janet Schmidt, the school's Title I reading teacher, said Knapp contributed to the success of many third- and fifth-graders over the past three years.

"She is just very enthusiastic with children," said Schmidt. "She has a naturally positive attitude."

Schmidt reported that the children loved working with her.

"I think it's in her personality to give to others. It's a natural giving of herself to help other people," Schmidt said.

Knapp said she has chosen to attend Thomas More College next year because it is a similar environment to Covington Latin and close to home. She plans to major in psychology.

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