



Ryah Manker

Mickelson Middle School, 6th grade
Essay Winner 4th - 6th grades

Sister Margaret Raphael McCarthy
Avera Healthcare Leader

Sister Margaret Raphael McCarthy joined the convent at the age of 19. McCarthy was Mother superior for 15 years. While being Mother superior Sister Margaret Raphael McCarthy helped schools and hospitals during World War Two and The Great Depression. She helped expand the hospital which would be known as the Avera Health Clinic. This act wildly affected the medical industry. The nurses at the time were trained by McCarthy in the Cadet Nurse Corps. Every hospital under this met together and made requirements for each nurse to follow.

By the end of Sister Margaret Raphael McCarthy's career as the main sister she had helped so many people in the United States and in South Dakota. In the end there were 221 nuns under her doing work for all of their contributions to society. They were running four hospitals, 16 different schools, an orphanage, and a junior college. They also had 2.3 million dollars to be used in other buildings in what was their future.

Sister McCarthy deserves to be recognized because without her helping with her community, there would be people that would be helpless and not with us today. Her work in the medical field has been a huge thing for many but most do not know the story of one of the biggest hospitals in the Midwest. It would be huge to know who had helped start Avera considering many people's parents work there or that are considering working in the field.