

Hershey Rotary Club essay

2/2/24

Community Service

What is community service? I think community service is giving back to not just where you live or who you know, but anywhere and anyone. Growing up, I realized that Milton and Catherine Hershey were giving back to the community by making this school. They helped other less fortunate people, like myself, come here and get an amazing education. When I was younger, every time someone mentioned Milton or Catherine Hershey giving back to the community and how we should do the same, I just rolled my eyes and told the adults, "I never asked to be here, so why does it matter?" Now, I realize they never had to give their money away, but they did and I am more than grateful for it. Since they decided to give back to the community, I think that community service can help better you as a whole person and that giving back will inspire others to do the same.

Is it true that me and my family went to one of the poorest places in Philadelphia to hand out food and clothes? Every summer or winter, my mom, my siblings, and I go to Kensington PA, and give to the homeless. Kensington is one of the poorest towns in Philadelphia. The poverty rate there is 44.7% and it keeps going higher. The area's crime rate is about 30% higher than overall Philadelphia. Going there is very dangerous, but it's worth it. Walking and going through the streets, you can see that the research doesn't lie. There are many homeless people on the streets and sidewalks begging for money.

I think that it's not fair and will never be fair, that people have to live in harsh conditions. That's why my mom tries to travel to Kensington at least 1-3 times a year. When I was with her I saw the trash and dirt piling up on the sidewalk, making it hard for people to walk by. When we set up our stand there were so many people walking up and asking if they could take one. People were smiling to receive just scarfs, coats, and gloves. They were so thankful that some of them even cried. I feel like that's what helping your community is all about. Seeing the faces of people getting the smallest thing makes their day 10x better.

Going to Kensington and giving out food made me realize that people have worse conditions than me. Most of them aren't sheltered, but they have a smile on their face. I think that giving back to the community will bring goodwill and friendship because many people become closer when they help other people. The community service projects that we do at Milton Hershey really help in many different ways. Going to nursing homes and making cards for people in the military can have a huge impact on your life. It definitely did for me, because I am starting to appreciate more things than I used to. Doing community service can make you a better person

Giving back and helping others is definitely beneficial to your community but it's also beneficial to yourself. Doing community service can help you improve your mental health. It could be good to put smiles on peoples faces, and it can increase your self esteem and can have a positive impact on you and your family.

Growing up, my family was always sheltered, but that was only because of my mom. Moving to America at a young age and having to take care of nine children all by herself is really hard. It made me realize that receiving service is just as good as giving service. I think that's why my mom gives back to the community. She was in their place once, receiving service from other

people that helped. When doing community service, it may not change the whole world, but it definitely has an effect on people like it affected my mom to give back what people were giving her. I think we can always learn from people, and that's why I like community service so much, you get to hear the stories of the elderly in nursing homes or the military stories of veterans. Community service is so much more than doing work and posting it on social media, its about helping others and making a difference in the world.