

The dictionary defines community service as work that is done without pay to help a community of people. However, community service is not just about the work itself, but rather the people it impacts and the lives it touches. Though some people are forced into community service as a minor consequence of an action, some willingly participate to show they care about their community. Community service to me is a way of giving to the people around me who may not have as much as I do. Community service is doing work not for the "thank you's" but doing it to feel like we have made an impact. It is doing work to see the smiles and happiness of the people around us. It will build goodwill because you are putting effort into creating a good environment and helping the people in your community. It will build better friendships because you are meeting new people who also do community service. With this, you are starting a chain reaction and getting more people to do community service which soon can lead to everyone coming together as one to help others and be better people.

I believe that everything we do impacts someone in one way or another and though sometimes our efforts go unnoticed, it is worth it to see the way we have helped our community. Whether it be helping elderly people, planting trees and flowers, or even something as simple as cleaning up trash you find, it feels nice to know you're helping someone or something out there. I think that some would say it is not fair to those doing community service because they are not being paid or given anything in return, but I believe that it is fair. You are doing something to create a better place and to help the people which is something I believe you should not be doing for money or any type of reward, but you should be doing it for your feeling of accomplishment or to know you have made a mark in your community. As Mother Teresa said, "Intense love does not measure, it just gives". I live by that quote as I find it to be true. I should not give something with hopes of receiving in return, but rather give as it is the greatest expression of

love. Community service stems from the idea of love. Love to me is a show of kindness, compassion, and affection. I believe that when we do community service we are showing our love for our community and its people. I have always liked to give to others rather than to receive because other people's happiness boosts my happiness. Giving to my community is something I think is very important because you never know what one is going through, and it never hurts anyone to spread some kindness. I believe that it will benefit all concerned because the people participating in community service learn a lot of lessons such as leadership, teamwork, communication, and relationship-building. The community and the people in it benefit from this because they are being helped and being shown a lot of kindness through other people and their actions. I think that by doing community service, you build strong relationships with the people who surround you. It gets you out of your comfort zone and helps you see life from a different perspective. I think that community service teaches you things like being grateful for what you have and not taking things for granted.

From a young age, my parents have taught me to help people in need and give back to the community. They have worked with organizations that distributed shoe boxes filled with gifts for poor children as part of the "Operation Christmas Child" program and mentioned seeing the joy and happiness in the children's faces, which has been a source of inspiration for me. When I think about community service, I think about donating my old clothes and toys to "Goodwill" and "Salvation Army." I think about buying presents for little kids whose parents cannot afford as much for them. It's all about the simple things we do to make others smile. People always remember the impact you had on them. They hope that you are being truthful in your actions. The truth is full of honesty and genuine intentions. When someone is abiding by the truth, they are being genuine. Oftentimes, community service can be utilized for untrue or ingenuine

purposes. People participate just to reach a goal or to please others. They forget the true meaning behind community service, which is to help the community with nothing in return. The truth is found in the genuine nature of people's actions, and I would say that it is extremely important. Many people have different views of what the truth might be, but I believe that the most important part of the truth is what kind of intentions someone has. True things are beneficial, fair, and foster goodwill. So, it is important to consider whether something is fair, whether it is beneficial, and whether it promotes goodwill when searching for the truth. I believe we should always be searching for the truth in whatever we do, whether that be community service or any other action we take part in.

In closing, every day we are given a choice to open our eyes, ears, and hearts. We are given the choice to hear the voices of those around us and amplify them. We are given the choice to contribute to our community and serve the people of that community. Everyone has a chance to do this and they should take this chance. The truly great people of the world acknowledge what they can do for their community and they take proactive action to do this. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Everyone can be great, because everyone can serve." It does not matter how much a person can do, but rather the time, effort, and care they put into their deeds. We should strive every day to think of the little deeds we can do to serve our community.