

“What is my role and responsibility as a resident to support and improve my community?”

A tear began to form in my eye, ready to stream down the curvature of my cheek. I yelled “bye” as I watched the ten of them walk to their parents in the parking lot to leave. This was my second year being a counselor at Camp Hope for Kids, but I had forgotten how great it felt to give to these kids all week. Community service is near to my heart, because others’ community service has helped me to get where I am today.

Selflessness through community service is the glue on this Earth; without service to others, there would be a lack of togetherness and unity in the world. Community service has assisted in molding me into who I am today. Peers, neighbors, friends, and family have taught me so much through shared lessons and experiences.

I look forward to continuing to give back to my community. Over the years, I have had the opportunity to serve in a myriad of ways, like giving food to the homeless at the local foodbank, devoting a weekend to cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay, or helping out neighbors. I have fond memories of the times I served my neighbors. I often cut grass or do yard work for an elderly neighbor who might not be capable, or give up a day off from school in order to shovel a snow-filled driveway for a friend in need. Community service offers me a way to grow closer to those around me, and to fulfill their needs.

As the kids at camp drove away with their parents, I had a warm feeling in my heart, because I knew I may have impacted a kid’s life. I knew I had contributed to the unity of this world, and I was overwhelmed with joy.