

Service is volunteering and participating in causes that are sometimes bigger than ourselves. I have always been dedicated, available, and a confidant to those in need. Since I was in elementary school, I have always been an active participant in service in my community. In my college career, I've taken a role as Assistant Director to two of our college's well-known service events: Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Day and Big Event. In both of these, our students and faculty sign up to take part in bettering the Shreveport community in any ways that we can. As Assistant Director, I am responsible for helping contact people who want to participate and accept our services as well as gathering supplies for our students and faculty to use at the different service sites. I've served in nursing homes, children's clubs, and even at local environmentally-based organizations that focus on educating individuals on the importance of keeping our community clean and green.

The most outstanding service I've taken part in thus far in my lifetime would have to be volunteering at The Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club of Shreveport. The club in Shreveport is in a lower-income neighborhood, making it easier on families to not have to worry about their children being out in the streets and allowing them to have a place to go as well as be supervised after school hours. Some of the kids' parents didn't get off of work until later hours; so, I as well as other volunteers and workers, were in charge of staying with the kids until they were able to be picked up from the club. I was responsible for watching kids in different age groups, 5-17, and provide them with an entertaining and educational experience after getting out of school. With whichever age group I was assigned, I would usually allow them to play in the gym or on the computers until majority of the group made it to the club. When most of the group was in the club, I then sat everyone in the group down and for an hour we would work on homework and projects they had due for school. Essentially, serving at the club allowed me to help kids who possibly could not afford a tutor, or had no one to help them with assignments after getting out of school. It showed me how important it is to realize the privilege some of us have is not granted to everyone. Serving in the community and wanting to help others who haven't been given the same opportunities as ourselves shows a lot about our own character and who we should want to be in the world.

As the great Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love." Despite our personal circumstances, we all have the ability to have an impact in this world. Service teaches us to use our privileges to help those who are not as fortunate. I will continue to use my personal experiences to educate others on the importance of service, and I will continue to take the necessary steps to better my community.