In communities around the globe people under estimate the power and effect community service has on a person that receives the service or deed done. Community service can affect the volunteer in many ways that seem unimaginable until you actually experience the feeling you get after you do community service. This service can range from preparing food for the elderly, working on a community nursing home, or even something as simple as sacrificing your time to talk to an elderly or misfortunate person. One small action of courtesy or helpfulness can be a life changing event for the person doing the action and the person receiving the action.

Doing community service in my community has been an inspiring experience for me. Community service has opened my eyes to how many people actually need help in our community, whether it be food, medical supplies, property maintenance, or even something as simple as just having someone to talk to. The first time I delivered meals for Meals on Wheels I was touched to find out how nice and amazing some of the people receiving the meals were. For example, the first house I delivered to was the home of an ex-marine military Sargent who had no legs and three fingers missing. He invited me inside, offered me a coke, and started to tell me about his last tour that resulted in his injuries. Sarge, this man’s nickname, was on a covert mission with his men when the group was almost obliterated by a “tank buster”, which is a 20mm projectile fired from a cannon to get inside the armor of the tank. Sarge said the only reason he was still here on this “Hell-hole” we call home was because one of his boots was untied and he tripped. This man’s story has inspired me to be more courteous, respectful, and talk to the “elderly” more often.
There are many things you can do in your community to help the community. Such as preparing and delivering meals for Meals on Wheels. Meals on Wheels deliver one hot meal every Monday through Friday to each elderly and needy person that has no one to make or bring them food. These people can be as young as their 30s and as old as you can imagine, some of the people receiving these meals are ex-military or even old actors. Another service you can do community service for is Breaking Bread Kitchen which provides hot meals every weekday night from 5:30 – 6:30 for the misfortunate. Breaking Bread kitchen has over 100 volunteers every month and 90-100 meals served every night they are opened. There are many more places in our community you can go to help serve and make your community better.

Community service can be a life changing event for some people such as myself. During the summer of 2010 I met a wonderful 98 year old lady named Betty, who has had a huge impact on my life. Betty was a sister to 5 other siblings, a mother of 4 children and a grandmother to 7 grandchildren. The first time I met Betty was when I was delivering a meal to her and she invited me in. Upon entering her house I noticed she had two dogs, a cat, a swimming pool, hot tub, huge backyard, and a bulletin board that was about 8 feet wide and 6 feet tall and it was covered in pictures of her kids, grandkids, and a few of her but there was one thing that stood out. That was a picture of her husband that had been killed by a drunk driver in a head on collision. She noticed me looking at this picture of her husband and said, ”You know…… my husband had the same color hair as you…. Hell he even had the same bony cheeks…. Damn you look just like him as a kid!!!” after this short conversation I became friends with Betty, I would take the time out of my route to go inside and talk to Betty about her grandkids and random stuff. One day when I went over to Betty’s house I knew something wasn’t right because her dogs were going crazy. When I went to ring the doorbell I noticed a younger man getting something of off the
bulletin board and noticed me standing there. He came to the door and said “You must be Michael, I’ve heard a lot of good stories about you from grandma… why don’t you come with me up to the hospital, grandma fell and isn’t doing so good, we don’t know if she’ll make it…..” so I went with this young man and saw Betty for the last time……. If I had not done community service I never would of meet this wonderful lady.

I hope this essay has opened your eyes enough to go and do some kind of community service. This can be anything from helping a neighbor in need, volunteering for meals on wheels, breaking bread, or even just helping someone carry groceries to their car. Community service has been a life changing event for me and I hope that you will give community service a chance to change your life. I strongly encourage you to do some sort of community service, trust me you will be surprised with the outcome.