As a woman helping kids is something that comes natural to me. Doing community service gives me great joy. Helping others who cannot help themselves is the ultimate feeling. Although, I do a lot of community service, for my Midland Legacy scholarship I chose to work at Casa De Amigos helping children with their homework.

I love how much of a difference I can make in someone’s life just by being patient and taking time to understand how each child learns. Going into things, I went in with the mindset that I'll just help these kids with their homework and it'll be an easy way to get my 40 hours. But once I actually started helping them I realized that I got way more than what I bargained for. They were really thankful for my help and it even got to a point that when I would come in, several of the kids requested me to help them.

I noticed several things while working with these kids. The first being that most of the kids I worked with just simply went by unnoticed; if majority of the other kids in the class got whatever the lesson was then they just pushed the confused kids along too. Another thing I noticed is that some of the kids are just afraid to ask questions either because of fear of looking “dumb” amongst their peers or because they are bilingual and don’t like to talk in front of big crowds. So what I had to do was create a type of trust with these kids I had to make them feel so comfortable with me that they could ask any question that they wanted to. Another thing I noticed was that some kids just don’t know how to study. I feel this is something that is just not taught enough in school, which is why a lot of people, including myself, struggle with school. So I had to do research and see which study habits worked for which students.
I even took it a step further and looked at their progress reports to see where there weakness was and worked on that with them. The moment I got the most joy was when I would come in and see that their grades had gone a whole grade letter up, that’s when I knew that I was making a difference in their lives and not only that but they were making one in mine as well. Along the way I learned how to have patience and understanding and I learned not to look at things as only black and white. I also learned that not all people learn the same way.

I think there should more places like Casa De Amigos that are dedicated to children because I think places like that really do give kids hope. It’s a positive place with people who really do care. It also gives people like me a chance build up my leadership skills as well. Overall, I loved doing community service.