Community Service

Since I was young, never would I have ever thought that community service would be so rewarding, not just for the community but for myself as well. As I entered junior high community service was introduced to me and back then it seemed nothing more than a chore, a job without pay, or even just plain punishment. My mother passed away when I was 13 and my father really wasn't involved in my life since their earlier divorce. Due to that, majority of my time I had to work hard for what I wanted on my own. Since I never had much help in school or support in other activities, volunteering my spare time didn't seem to intrigue me.

When I began high school that's when I realized I needed a way to pay for college. I did a lot of research on different scholarship opportunities and noticed many involved community service. At first I wasn't so sure about it but when I took a look at the agencies a few caught my attention. Agencies like Helping Hands, Midland SPCA and even tutoring for MISD highly interested me. I volunteered a few times for each agency to meet my scholarship requirements, but then I found myself wanting to participate even more and help out when I had free time. I enjoyed the SPCA due to my love for animals and wanting to help and care for them anyway I could. Like SPCA, Helping Hands was a placed I volunteered many times, I even got a few friends to come help once and some of them found it fun. Several people of Midland come to Helping Hands in need of different things. Growing up myself, I to have been in a situation where my family and I needed help in a way that Helping Hands provide. To know that I help participate in setting up and helping them, makes me feel good knowing that they appreciate my help. As for tutoring, this type of community service was one of my favorite. Throughout my
school years before college I've never had any help with my work. I have never had parents to help me better understand certain subjects or even people within my age range to tutor me. Sometimes being tutored by an adult could also be a little intimidating or harder to understand. I realized that when young adults within my age were available to tutor, they could teach me techniques or ways to understand the material in a less complex way than the teacher would explain. Overall, I've always excelled in many subjects due to the help that I obtained. So when I noticed another classmate or student in need of help, I greatly enjoyed tutoring them to the best of my abilities.

I learned through my experience of community service that everywhere someone needs a lending hand. To be that person to help out and in return see their reaction, can be the greatest reward itself. I know personally what it feels like to be in the situation of needing someone to take just a minute out of their time. Community service shouldn't have to be felt like a chore or forced upon, but as something rewarding to yourself and others. I'm very satisfied that I was able and still am able to contribute myself to several agencies and people that need help.