People’s lives are changed every day by their actions and experiences, actions and experiences that they choose to act upon or actions and experiences that are acted upon them. This summer I acted upon a community service experience that opened my eyes in many ways. I was a volunteer at the Midland Memorial Hospital. In my time as a volunteer at the hospital, I was able to meet patients and staff members from all over the world and learn about their life experiences. Listening to all of their stories has made me truly appreciate everything I have. An opportunity for an education has to be on the top of the list of things I am truly fortunate for.

During the time of completing my community service hours, one experience that I will always remember is the day I was running errands and came across a patient. She was a sweet woman who was originally from Mexico. We were having a friendly conversation when she asked me about why I chose to do community service at the hospital. I explained to her that I planned on majoring in the medical field one day and I was working on obtaining community service hours for a scholarship at Midland College. We got to talking about the education systems in our countries. In our conversation I learned that only selected people were given the opportunity to receive an education in her native country. She told me about the poor education systems and the poverty her country faces. Being a United States citizen, I am born with guaranteed rights to an education while others have to fight for their right to an education. This made me realize how truly fortunate I am.

At the beginning of this volunteer experience, I walked in hopeful that I would gain some knowledge about the different careers that the medical field possesses, but I got so much more than that. I learned that community service is about making an impact and is about paying it forward.

At the end of volunteer services I have decided on a major, I am now striving to become a physician’s assistant. In this position, not only do I get to take care and heal patients, but I am presented with the opportunity to change their lives. I will be able to see firsthand the diversity of cultures from
around the world. It allows me to step back and speak to these people. This community service opportunity has opened my eyes to the different values of other cultures. When the woman told me she was very proud of me, it brought tears to my eyes to see how genuinely happy she was for me.

I am most appreciative for this Legacy Scholarship because it has given me the opportunity to achieve my academic goals. The Legacy Scholarship is allowing me to have an amazing college experience, one that I learned that some people can only dream about having. And for that reason I have realized how truly fortunate I am for the scholarship.