Evelynn Valles

Throughout high school I was always confused on what I wanted to do and study in college. I didn't entirely put all of my effort my sophomore or junior years but I knew if I truly wanted to attend college I had to give it my all my last year in high school. Of course being a senior and wanting to be a little more involved around the school I knew I had to have at least one extracurricular activity. To my luck I chose Students in Philanthropy not knowing one thing about it.

Never would I have ever imagined the big impact Student in Philanthropy would of had on me. From spending time with the special needs kids, picking up trash, to serving food to people in need. It was such an amazing experience to meet people who had the same passion as myself. Unfortunately I didn't realize I loved to do these things until I was introduced to them.

Growing up I always imagined myself being a teacher or a counselor. Now that I have experienced more I can see myself doing that or maybe even managing a nonprofit organization. Students in Philanthropy showed me that anything is possible with a lot of hard work. Also that giving to others is one of the best feelings because it is indescribable seeing other people smile because of all the hard work you have done. For example, we were held responsible on throwing a Special Needs Prom for the special needs kid in our school. We had to provide food, beverages, a DJ, dresses for the ladies, tuxedos for the gentleman, a limo, decorations, and the place it was going to be held at. The students in Students in Philanthropy had to go around asking for donations for their prom and also held many fundraisers for them. Of course it was a lot of hard work but seeing the kids dancing and having a great time at the night of there prom made it all worth it.

-Students in Philanthropy not only showed me how to help others but to manage money.
Evelynn Valles

Throughout the year our goal was to raise money to later give it away in grants to nonprofit organizations in our area. We had to visit the organizations and choose which one needed the money the most or divide the money between all the organizations that applied. The process was fairly easy but turning people down was the hard part. Especially knowing that they all needed the money for an important cause.

Now I realize why it was so important to join an extracurricular activity in high school. It makes you look forward to class and I also found something I love to do by joining. I learned that I love to help others even if it's just by listening or lending a hand. Students in Philanthropy also showed me that if you want to change something you have to do it yourself because no one will ever put enough effort like yourself. “Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.”-Dr. Seuss