

I have been raised in a family where community service is part of life, and this has inspired me to follow in their footsteps. I excitedly sought out new volunteering adventures as soon as I started high school. As a result, I have earned 430 hours of community service.

One of the most enriching experiences that I have had in high school is the opportunity to work with children and others. During high school, I volunteered at the Sunday Studio Art Pass at the Young at Art Museum in which I led classes working with children and adults on pottery, painting, photography, and other art media. Every Sunday from January through June, I worked seven hours a day, totaling more than 100 hours of community service. My responsibilities included teaching both children and adults to work with different art forms, ranging from pottery to photography, and working in the photography dark room. As part of my volunteer work, I assisted in setting up the particular art media for each class and helping with individual student instructions. Following each class, I took an active role in brainstorming ideas for the next week's class. This work was enriching as I enjoyed teaching children to learn about new and unfamiliar art media. Through my ability to work with people of all ages and abilities, I look forward to continuing to work with people in my community.

One day while volunteering, almost by accident, I found that some of the art students were understood best when the new art forms were first presented visually on a computer. However, the head instructor was more used to working with the traditional art forms, such as painting, pottery, and working in the dark room, but was not as familiar with computer animation programs. So, I ended up instructing on those parts of the Sunday class. Instead of just using ordinary drawing and coloring applications, I showed her and the art students how to use iMovie, GarageBand, and computer animation programs. The spirit of giving my knowledge to classes at

the Young at Art Museum taught me that by using my knowledge along with leadership skills, I would be able to teach people concepts that are new to them.

In addition to competing for four years in local, regional, and national competitions with the Cypress Bay Sound of Thunder Marching Band and as part of its Wind Ensemble. During these activities, I have taken on various leadership roles in attempt to better the community within band. I am currently the Head Historian for the Cypress Bay Sound of Thunder in which I promote the program through social media broadcasts and document activities of the band.

Within the band program, I am also the principal chair bass clarinet and have been awarded various distinctions such as my acceptances into the All-County Honor Band. The experiences I received through holding a leadership position inspired me to share my knowledge with younger students who would eventually have the opportunity to serve a leadership role in the future.

During each summer of high school, I also continued to work with students as a Music Camp Counselor with the Cypress Bay Middle School Music Camp. During this week-long camp held each summer, I volunteered for 40 hours instructing middle school students on techniques for working with woodwind instruments and Bb flat and Bass Clarinets.

Hands-on roles in the community are very important but fundraising for these organizations are vital also. Through working with multiple organizations to fundraise for civic and charitable causes, my community service activities continue to expand. For each of my years of high school, as part of the UNICEF Club at Cypress Bay, I fundraised and helped to organize the distribution of merchandise, including candies, chips, and other items in order to help with projects worldwide. My contribution left a lasting impact: as a team, we raised over \$180,000 for UNICEF projects for children worldwide.

My community service work continued with my fundraising work with the Cypress Bay Habitat for Humanity Club. For three years, I worked as a fundraiser to support the fight against homelessness, organizing the sale of candies and other products to raise needed funds. In the memory of Alexi Stafford who tragically passed away over a year ago, I have also joined the Allergy Awareness Club at my school inspired to prevent future incidents by fundraising and growing support for those in need. My fundraising efforts for charitable causes also included my work as a Student Volunteer with St. Bonaventure Church during 9th Grade, hosting fundraising breakfasts for parishioners that raised funds for charitable causes. Personally, I have been affected by my volunteer work as I know that there are less fortunate people around the world being provided more opportunities as a result of my efforts to fundraise.

I know this is a well-worn saying, “In giving you receive the most”, but I truly believe in it. I have been fortunate enough to have the opportunity to be involved in many different community service projects, ranging from fund-raising to teaching group lessons. I have worked with people of various ages and abilities. I have enjoyed every minute of it. As I look forward to moving to a new county to begin college, I am also looking forward to the new opportunities that await me in that community. I plan to continue my community involvement at the University of Florida, as I enter as a business major beginning in the Fall. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with children and my peers in different organizations. I am hoping that through my business education I will learn how I can help even more in my community. It is satisfying leaving Broward County knowing that I have made a difference in my community, and I hope that I have inspired others to continue these efforts.