

Volunteerism



My greatest achievement is volunteering for community service. I believe it has always been important to me as far as I can remember. I always see my achievements as opportunities and advantages I am fortunate to have. By volunteering I believe I have achieved more than the material things in life. I have achieved the appreciation of the people I have helped as well my awareness of their misfortunes. I have also gained the pride in myself for helping these people with their problems. My mother has always told me that my talent is a gift from God.

And what you do with that talent is a gift back to him. I have learned, as I grow older the meaning and understanding of my mother's statement. I am truly proud to say that volunteering has helped me grow as a person. It leaves me with a great impression about the people in my community. I do not think I should be awarded for my volunteering achievements. I use my achievements as building blocks to use as a foundation for the future. Unfortunately, people tend to take things for granted in today's society.

Friends, activities, and waking up with an assurance come easily to us. We know and expect we will meet our friends and participate with them in school. We then expect to go home to a warm, happy family waiting for us. Volunteering has allowed me to meet people, old and young who do not have the same advantages that I do. They do not have a loved one waiting for them at home. I had the honor of performing in front of an audience one Christmas, a few years ago. It was a Veteran's hospital.

I have never been so moved as when the whole room began singing " I am proud to be an American. " I looked around the room to see tears falling from everyone's eyes, men and women. I realized these men and

women fought to secure the freedom for us all. They risked their lives so that we can feel secure and exercise our rights as citizens of the United States of America. These men and woman have risked their lives so that we can walk down the sidewalk without the threat of car bombs going off.

That is when I realized how the three hours I spend volunteering at the veteran's hospital has enriched my life. I remember my mother always telling me " At Christmas time receiving is easy, this is the giving part. " That is when my mother taught me how to give. Community service has been very important in my life ever since. I never forget the wonderful beautiful smiles on the veteran's, and the Special Olympics participants that I help. Or the look of pride on the Special Olympian's faces when they finally cross the finish line last.

I can see that they didn't care whether or not they won the gold metal all they cared about is having fun. And seeing this has left a great impression on me. I hope to continue volunteering, to make a difference in another person's life the way they had made a difference in mine. My true goal is to introduce many children and teenagers to volunteering their free time to helping the less fortunate. I believe introducing the act of volunteering to young children will enforce a more caring giving, and happier generation for the future. This will be my greatest reward.