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Volunteerism
Leadership
Collaboration
Legacy



STORIES OF SERVICE

Community service is an act that has always been a part of me, who I am, and what I am all about. The experiences that I have been involved in have sculpted me into the individual I am today. When looking to receive the most out of what I am involved in, I am always open-minded to what lies ahead. This open-mindedness has led to a vast array of opportunities that I am extremely thankful for. Many of these opportunities are ones that I have held in a leadership and service environment. I call this environment my comfort zone, simply because it is one that I have grown in and one that has taught me how I can ultimately reach my full potential. However, I know that my comfort zone has ample room to continually seek opportunities where I can grow as an individual, expand my knowledge and broaden my experiences.

Throughout high school I was known to flock towards community service as it is a passion of mine, and something that truly tugs at my heart strings. Ever since kindergarten when I joined Girl Scouts, service has been a part of me. Over the years however, my parents never forced me to do it, they simply let it be my choice. Time after time, I chose to do an act of service and now it is simply what rocks my world. I almost feel as if I am served through serving others. Service is what drives me, what keeps me inspired and motivated to help others.

When I came to GCSU as a freshman I knew that I wanted to get involved in the school and make it a place where I felt like I was making a difference. That is part of the reason why I chose the school, because I felt that it was just the right size to get involved. Upon arrival, the GIVE Center was one of my first stops. I will never forget the day that I walked into Kendall's office and started talking. One thing led to another and thirty minutes later, I was convinced that the GIVE Center was most likely going to be my home away

from home, and that is what it has become. At the beginning of last semester, I chose to become a member of Gamma Sigma Sigma, a national community service sorority. That was one of the best decisions that I have made. The purpose of the sorority is what I am all about. The girls are amazing and everyone fits in and can be themselves. We have a great mixture of service, social, and fun.

Several weeks after that, Kendall asked if I would like to become a Servant Leader. This is where the true fun began. We started brainstorming what I was passionate about and came up with helping cancer patients. This passion is derived from being effected by several close family members and friends who have dealt with the battle of cancer. Some have conquered it and others have lost the fight. However, each one of their stories is what inspires me to do what I do. Needless to say, this is where the idea of Survivor Buddies came about. Survivor Buddies is a brand new organization that works with the Georgia Cancer Specialists. This group is made up of 40 volunteers who help out at the hospital and behind the scenes, creating care packages, working on a garden, providing a book area and more. The volunteers are inspired through visits at the hospital where they can help, sit and talk to the patients. It is the connection that many of the patients are seeking. We are there to be a support group for them and their families.

In turn the rewards that I have received from serving at the Georgia Cancer Specialists and elsewhere are unexplainable. It is something that is so fulfilling and satisfying to know that you have made a difference in the lives of others. My life has been changed by serving others as I have a whole new perspective on life and how to live it. I am a firm believer in Gandhi's quote "Be the change you wish to see in the world." We are the future of tomorrow. It is up to us to create a world that we want to live in, surrounded by those who lift us and others up. I am extremely thankful for my service experiences, for without them I don't know who I would be. I am anxious for what lies ahead as the opportunities for service are endless and inspiring.

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