

“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.” - Author unknown

Essay by **Natalie Johns** – Trinity Catholic School

There are extraordinary people in this world; people who strive to make the world a better place, who willingly share their abilities with the less fortunate asking for nothing in return, who believe that everyone deserves the same opportunities to succeed. These people are known as volunteers, and their generous actions contribute to different causes every day. Fortunately, you can easily become a volunteer. Whether it is picking up trash on the side of the street, or helping out at your local animal shelter. Volunteering always reaches out to something or someone.

“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.” This quote is stating that you can only get to vote in elections once a year for policies you believe in. However, if you volunteer, you get the opportunity to decide what kind of community you want to live in every day. Whether it is a peaceful, generous, or more kind community is completely up to you.

Some community service projects that I participate in are serving at homeless shelters, helping with babysitting at my Church, and tutoring younger students at my school. My experiences have opened my eyes to others' realities in this world that I wouldn't know existed if I didn't volunteer. Every week I tutor a younger student at school. Tutoring is a great opportunity for students who need a little extra push in school. When I help my student with a word or a concept on an assignment I can tell when it finally clicks in their mind. As a result a warm, fuzzy feeling fills my body. This is a kind of feeling that occurs when you help someone, and it is the best feeling in the world.

Another one of my experiences with community service was helping my school clean up after a hurricane. Hurricane Hermine left Tallahassee in complete destruction. My school was especially disrupted by being covered by thousands of leaves and huge tree branches. Since my school had given me so many things in life, I decided to give back to it. This is what you should think about if you are contemplating whether or not to help someone or something out. Your community has already given you so much. Would it hurt to give back?

In conclusion, volunteering is a selfless act that helps others, and is easy to get involved in. Volunteers give their time and services to assist people in need. Volunteers can perform their jobs at homeless shelters, animal shelters, and other city, local, and communal areas. By being a volunteer you are fulfilling your duty as a citizen. You are also setting a good example for others, and being a leader in your area. Only you can decide what kind of community you want to live in. What will it be?