

Strolling through the aisles of my local grocery store, I stared at the empty shelves that were once filled with food, drinks, and other items necessary for life. People in my community were going door-to-door asking for spare supplies, and my neighbors were explaining how their rations would not last much longer. After meeting to brainstorm with my family, we decided that the best way to conquer the pandemic and the shortage of supplies was to organize a community supply drive. Opening my computer, I began to write an email and create a Facebook group including all the members of my surrounding community. The message informed others that I would be starting a supply drive represented by a "Give and Take Table." The first aspect was going to be a table filled with supplies, which was placed outside of the entrance to the neighborhood. Anyone that went by could take, exchange, or provide supplies to those who needed them. Putting out the table for collections, I scrambled around my house piling needed supplies on the table, ready for people to take them. During the first week, the contents of the table changed quite a lot. The table went from being barely covered to completely engulfed by hundreds of containers of hand sanitizer, masks, rolls of toilet paper, and other commodities. The changes amazed me. I checked the next day and noticed several of the previous items had been taken and replaced with newer supplies. This tiny table had become a thing of its own: a symbol of community generosity and camaraderie. After months of setting up and taking down the table daily, the scarcity in the stores subsided. I took the remaining supplies and donated them to a local food pantry for those who were struggling the most during this time. The recipients' smiles and sighs of relief, along with the vanishing looks of worry and distress from my neighbor's faces help me understand the positive impact I had made on my community during such a difficult time.

Community service is a vital part of society today. I believe that it is the duty of those who are able, to take care of those who need assistance. With the creations of nonprofits, I see a future where we have more people willing to help out others. During COVID I was able to volunteer for the nonprofit Ventura County Area Agency on Aging. Through this organization, I delivered boxes of food and supplies to people who were more susceptible to getting COVID two times a week. Through this, I was able to understand how community service affects the future of society. I was able to see and hear about the client's stories after I gave them their boxes. I even kept in contact with a few and can see how my small impact on their lives drastically changed their future. This is why I think community service is so important, because of the positive effect it has on the future of those who need it.

The idea of healthcare is based on helping people who need assistance. So basically all forms of healthcare are built on a foundation of community service. Healthcare seems to be a more thorough and specialized form of community service. When people are first exposed to the feelings brought by volunteering, they realize it is addicting. So I think that as we as a society are given more opportunities to serve our community in the future, more people are going to love it and want to turn it into a career. So because of community service, I believe that there will be more healthcare job opportunities for people to serve their community while still being able to make a career from it.