

## HELP

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*“Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve ... You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”*

These insightful words once spoken by Martin Luther King have inspired me to find ways to help people each and every day. We don’t realize it, but there are so many people all around us that could use help; whether it comes in the form of hard work, time, and money, or just prayers and a kind word or two.

When I was searching for ways that I could offer my service, I started small. I was constantly looking for people that looked down, or maybe didn’t have very many friends. I realized I was acquaintances with most of the people at school, but I didn’t really know them. One day I saw a girl walking alone outside during activity. I had noticed her before, and I said hello occasionally, but I had never really listened to what she had to say. I seized the opportunity and walked over to talk to her. Just in the five minutes I was talking to her, she completely opened up to me and told me how she was born three months premature, and the struggles and aftereffects that came with it. There was a pain in her expression I had never noticed before; a pain of loneliness and suffering that shone through with every word. She thanked me and told me how much it meant to her that I took the time to walk over and start a conversation. From then on, I prayed for her, and continued to be kind. This one encounter reminded me that simply offering to listen to someone’s story can mean so much to that person.

After my eyes were opened through that experience, I thrived on the idea of finding even bigger ways to help. As my church began to discuss the upcoming Junior High mission’s trip to North Carolina that summer, I realized that it was exactly what I was looking for. A lot of time, money, and dedication went into preparing to go on the trip. When I found out that my church and I were going to be repairing a septic system that belonged to an elderly woman named Aunt Faye, I was definitely shocked. But all of us **remained** strong in the belief and motivation that we were potentially going to change her life forever by introducing her to Christ. So after pouring a week’s worth of sweat, time, and prayers into the mission, we began to fellowship with her. She told us how much she appreciated all of our hard work and that being around all of us in the seventh grade reminded her of when she was young. We talked to her about Christ, and the sacrifice He made for us, and she became interested in Christianity and what it meant to follow God. I know that this experience would not have been the same if we wouldn’t have taken the time and put the hard work into repairing her septic system, for it provided an opportunity to open a conversation. That week, we helped Aunt Faye not only by our hard work time, and money, but also by our prayers.

I had never realized how many people I was surrounded by that could use my service. I had only thought about the more popular opportunities such as helping the homeless or the millions around the world living in poverty. What I didn’t think about was the girl walking alone at activity or Aunt Faye in Weaverville, North Carolina. There are so many ways that we can

serve others, and like Martin Luther King said, “Everybody can be great, because anyone can serve.” Whether it’s at school, across the country, or overseas, I can always find a way to better someone else’s circumstances, and it’s an important law of life that I try to live by each and every day.