

Duronne Walker

Coach Jackson

Theology

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Project Hope

Making a mark on my community is very important to me. As a person of faith, I feel like it's my duty to give back to my community that gave me so much. No matter how hard my life seems to get, there will always be someone who face daily challenges that are tougher than mine. Knowing this is one of the main reasons why I think giving back to the community is so important. I would give back by volunteering at local shelters or doing something as simple as giving homeless people money on the street. Helping people not only makes their day better but also makes me feel better myself because it makes me feel like I am changing the world.

There are plenty of ways to give back to the community, but I plan on making a mark on my community by doing mostly volunteer work. I give back to the community because it is proved that, "happier people give more and giving makes people happier, such that happiness and giving may operate in a positive feedback loop (with happier people giving more, getting happier, and giving even more)." This proves that making someone else's day better just inspires them to do the same. I personally volunteer any way I can by volunteering at old folk's homes and doing as much as I can to help the disabled. Helping people with disabilities is something I can personally relate to since my father has a disability.

My father being disabled is a main reason why I feel like I need to give back. When meeting him, people automatically assume he is helpless just because he is visually impaired. It's natural for people to have misunderstandings of disabilities and the individuals that have them. I believe that sharing my father's story is one way to promote the equality of persons with disabilities. The way he has accepted his disability and overcome the challenges associated with it was for him to become very successful. Having lost his sight in a hazing incident in his undergraduate college years, and in spite of it to go on to earn a master's degree, and then from there to pursue and earn his Doctoral degree is evidence that people with disabilities are not limited to what they can achieve. To limit someone's opportunity to achieve based on their socio-economic, racial, physical, or mental capacity is to limit their civil rights of working toward a full and successful life.

As a person of faith, it is my responsibility to try to best by making a mark on my community and by changing the world. Another idea I have of planning to do so is by promoting social justice. There are many ways to go about promoting equality. First people must be willing to listen, learn, and be compassionate. By doing so people are showing courtesy and are open to hearing what others not only think but feel as well. Taking other people's opinions and ideas will eventually make a change. Collectively society will be better and all-inclusive because we will realize that as each person's dream could inspire someone else to dream, and in the striving inner peace can be achieved and anxieties lessened, which impacts us all in a positive way. Since political views can eventually become laws, social justice should ensure that checks and balances are in place so that no one part of society would have the dominate rule over another and that everyone is respected under the laws enacted with equal protections regardless of who they are –

poor or wealthy, free or incarcerated, able bodied or individuals with disabilities. This is my duty as a Christian.