

Nolan Rudolph

Martin Luther King Writing Contest

It is no secret that service to our community is a vital part of everyone's wellbeing. Serving others selflessly is not a venture that everyone wishes to embark on, but for every person who declines the call, there is a brave man or woman willing to sacrifice for others. These people give their time, talents, and energies to causes they believe in. Although community is defined as, "a body of people living in the same place under the same laws," I believe Dr. Martin Luther King saw past that. He was a catalyst for change, and his personal sacrifices changed the face of our nation forever. In my viewpoint, community service is the purest demonstration of unity within a society.

Service has always been a part of my life, and I am very proud to witness the events within my community that are orchestrated to give to others. My church is constantly at work donating resources to causes, even while its own budget is meek and its resources are scarce. As winter approaches, we are busy collecting blankets and coats for those who will shiver on the streets. Food items and time are given to local food pantries in Fairfield County and meals are served at Faith Mission. We even outreach to other struggling communities, like the mission trip planned and led by my mom to rebuild Biloxi, Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina.

In my own exploits, I have done many things to better my community. Since first grade, I was part of my local Cub Scout pack. Donating our time to monthly service projects was something we prided ourselves in. In my fifth grade art class, we made artwork and cards for the local nursing home residents. I also have goals for the future. I aspire to attend one of the U.S. military academies and serve my "national community" as a pilot.

While some remember Martin Luther King Jr. for his speeches, civil rights ambitions, or brutal murder, I choose to remember him as somebody who truly believed in equality and wanted to unify all people through service. Community service is a great way to better all those around you and make an impact in the community. I strongly feel he does not want us to mourn his passing, but would rather we go out and make our own difference in the world.