

Emily Daigneault

Rotary Club of Cohoes

2013 Frank Hines Scholarship

"Service Above Self"

I spend most of my time volunteering. Whether my service is for the homeless, youth, less fortunate, the sick, the environment, or God, I find myself constantly giving back to my community.



I try my best to represent a good person and Christian. I strive for my service to be inspirational, hoping others follow my example of helping those in need. In the words of Gandhi- "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." I lose myself in the feelings I get from volunteering. I have committed myself to countless hours of service. As a member of National Honor Society, Community Service Club, Youth Advisory Board, Girl Scouts, St. Ambrose Church, and of my own accord, I have completed more than 170 hours of service.

With National Honor Society, I've tutored, read to children, spent time with mentally disabled children, and participated in Respect Fest, an event that encourages character education in the community.

Through Community Service Club, I've planted trees, tutored children, volunteered at the American Red Cross Blood Drive and Holiday Lights in the Park in Albany, and participated in Global Youth Service Day, a Cohoes citywide service day.

With Youth Advisory Board, I've volunteered at the Cohoes Easter Egg Hunt and Turkey Trot, the Doug Ellett Run, and the Cohoes Farmer's Market.

With my Girl Scout troop, I volunteered at the Equinox Thanksgiving Dinner, which fed almost 10,000 underprivileged. I also volunteered with my family at the Regional Food Bank.

Through St. Ambrose Church, I've done many hours of service. With LifeTeen, I volunteered at multiple fundraisers, altar served, lectured, carried banners, and did collection services. I also volunteered through Habitat for Humanity and Sister Maureen Joyce Center, painting and refurbishing a food pantry. I was a counselor and volunteer at Vacation Bible School. This past year, I had the pleasure of teaching 3rd and 4th grade religious education. But my most pride-filled service activity was a mission trip to Guatemala in 2010 where I helped to build a school, benefitting many children living in the depths of poverty.

Though my acts of service all vary in many ways, they each are significant in what they do for me. Each service is a way for me to "lose myself", as Gandhi said, in a way unlike any other feeling. Service is a way to give back selflessly to those in need. It fills my heart with hope for the future, that others may find the goodness in their hearts to give back as well and make the world a better place.

In the future, I hope to continue my service, giving back to the city of Cohoes in any way possible. I hope to someday return to my hometown and share my wealth with those in need. As an actress, I hope to have a lot of influence in the world, informing others of the importance of service. I hope the Rotary Club sees my commitment to service.