Throughout high school I began spending a lot of my spare time doing volunteer work both logged and unlogged. The first few years I took it upon myself to help with community events during the holidays and with community cleaning projects. My Freshman year of high school, I had about 50 logged hours of community service ranging from tree planting on Earth Day to the restoration of our city’s creek or participating in the community’s annual Orange Blossom Festival. I have always been one to participate in big events by helping behind the scenes, the minor details people seem to forget about. This simply formed the base of other work I do for the community.

Some major ways I contribute to the community include the organization and preparation of food, toy, and clothes drives for the children of the community. During the holiday months people become so overwhelmed with what occurs in their personal lives that they forget to help those in need. One thing I take pride in doing is getting sign ups of students and working with the other schools in order to help local families in need. I have taken charge of getting students to participate in such events by donating or delivering items to households in need.

Aside from holiday events, I also attend weekly meetings with the Kiwanis Club to connect students’ ideas with those of the community. Currently we are reaching out to the community to find out what it is they need most so we can get it to them. Years past there were free dental days where members of the community could get free oral care by professionals without costing them a dime. Our next project is projected to take place soon and with the feedback received from both parties, we plan on creating a community soccer field available for everyone. The ultimate goal of improving and restoring recreation areas is to get the community together so generations grow up, passing on the good habits of maintaining what few things our town has.