

# Service to Others

By Elizabeth Houston, 2023

In 11th grade honors English, we had to read Anthem by Ayn Rand. This novel is my least favorite novel I have read. The whole story outlines Rand's philosophy of Objectivism and, by my understanding, the importance of self. Although I understand the importance of caring for yourself, I believe caring for others is just as important. In this world of constant hate and difficulty, helping others will ultimately bring us all together.

I have dedicated much of my life to helping others through church activities and service clubs. I always joined these clubs thinking I would make a difference, to improve at least one person's day. Some of these clubs are my church's youth group, Interact Club (an offshoot of the Rotary Club), and National Honors Society. Each of these organizations focuses on service and the community. In these organizations, I have worked with charity organizations like Zachary's Mission, ShelterBox, Hannah's Socks, and retirement homes to assist in the welfare of our community. I have raised money for Ukraine, made tutus for babies in hospitals, held services for elders in retirement homes, and taught at my church's Vacation Bible School. By completing these projects and more in these clubs as well as others, I have learned that service is impactful to everyone involved.

My most impactful service project was planning and creating an annual theater camp. This theater camp provides students with an enjoyable summer activity and provides the drama department with a steady inflow of people. I chose to do this camp as a way to improve our theater program and to work with kids to get them excited about the arts. Over the week, through teaching theater skills, choreography, and vocals, I watched students grow in confidence and skill. Seeing how my ideas and hard work helped many people was a fantastic feeling.

In the future, I plan to continue to serve my community as a moral duty. In the coming summer, I am working with the drama teacher to plan the second annual summer theater camp, and I hope it will continue in the coming years. On top of that project, I plan to stay active in college service groups. I am not sure what opportunities I will have, but I want to volunteer at local historical sites to combine my passions. By doing this, I can give my services to a cause (historical preservation and education) that I am passionate about.

Service to others has become an important and passionate activity of mine. Over the years, I have completed many projects, and I will continue to do so in the next few years. Service is not just a requirement for club participation; it is a moral obligation I hold to. I want to inspire others to serve as well so that someday, our society can be more altruistic rather than all about me.