



My Call to Service

by Adam King, Youth Advisory Committee

President Barack Obama recently issued a challenge to all Americans asking them to do their part in helping their neighbors and communities at large. We can respond to this logical desire in various ways. It can be something simple such as picking up trash or reading to a younger student. Taking it a step further, one can donate blood, host a fundraiser for a charity, or even enlist in the military. Americans are responding to this challenge every day, but it is essential that we all participate in some form of altruism on a more regular basis.

In order to be the “change that we seek,” all citizens must contribute to community service continuously. It takes the efforts of everyone to make positive changes in this nation and world. Change will take time, but it can be realistically accomplished. It takes small steps to climb a mountain, but once we reach the summit, everyone will experience a greater sense of pride and happiness.

As a member of the NC Civic Education Consortium’s Youth Advisory Committee and HOSA, community service has played a huge role in my life. It has become second nature to me. It is said that it is better to give than to receive, and this adage has proven to be very true. Anytime I volunteer or coordinate a service project, I get a wonderful and warm feeling in my heart that is simply indescribable. It makes me feel good knowing that I have helped a group of people who are less fortunate.

Over the course of this past year, I have volunteered at many different events. Last fall, I coordinated a regional charity walk to raise money for Autism Speaks. Autism Speaks is a national organization that is devoted to funding research and treatment for children with autism. A few months ago, I worked with my local HOSA chapter to organize several different fundraisers for the American Heart Association’s National Wear Red Day. We held T-shirt and face painting activities and asked teachers and administrators to volunteer to dye their hair red or wear a red dress. These two fall and winter events were very successful. Not only were we able to raise a lot of money for these causes, but we were also able to educate the school community about the risks and warnings of autism and heart disease.

There are countless mediums that you can participate in to help your school, community, or town. Be the change that you seek. I encourage you to find a project that interests you and help in anyway that you can.