

Sabhbh Grenouillon - Rye Neck High School

Throughout high school, I always sought to improve the community around me and help others whether that be inside or outside of school. During my junior year of high school, I founded a club, Project Hope, through which I fostered many activities in order to give back and help those in need. I organized fundraisers and community projects, such as food drives, clothes drives, toy drives, midnight runs, all aiming to support the less fortunate while encouraging my peers to get involved in community service. One of the most inventive projects we did was collecting upwards of 400 pairs of solar eclipse glasses and sending them to South America as their solar eclipse was later than ours, allowing people there to have the same opportunities as us. I believe that my club's presence and impact allows people to come together for a collaborative effort to assist those truly in need and helps us to realize how fortunate we are. Outside of school, I am deeply involved in community service, which I have demonstrated in many ways. I have volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House, located next to my city's hospital, where I prepared food for people with hospitalized family members. I have participated in "Midnight Runs", which are evening trips organized during the winter in New York City subway corridors and train stations to distribute food, clothes, and toiletries to the houseless. Furthermore, I am leader of a French girl scout troop from ages 12 to 16 with which I have organized various community service activities. For example, we have written and sent hundreds of letters during the pandemic, holidays, and year-round to retirement homes to show our love and care for the residents. Additionally, 7 years in a row, I have spent 10 days every summer volunteering during a religious retreat at Lourdes (France). I am part of a youth group that directly supports sick, disabled, and elderly individuals with their daily needs. We help them with tasks like feeding, bathing, dressing, managing medications, pushing wheelchairs and simply providing companionship. We stand by their side during their most vulnerable moments despite just having met them. Overall, I have completed 757 recorded hours of community service within my school, and in both my communities in New York and in France, which I believe has largely and successfully contributed to making my school and community a better place.