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Volunteering for the Calvary Fellowship AME Church in Brooklyn has been an incredibly rewarding experience. My grandmother, Francina, has been a dedicated soup kitchen volunteer for over a decade, and growing up, I watched her selflessly serve her community with unwavering kindness and compassion for the people around her. It's from her that I learned the importance of selfless service, giving back to others, and showing empathy to those in need. Inspired by her example, I grew a love for volunteer work and a desire to make a difference. Since 2024, I have dedicated numerous hours to assisting the church with their programs, events, and the community members who come. My work has included, serving food and drinks on weekends, organizing bonding activities for the children and seniors, and doing whatever I can to support the families who need an extra hand. Being a part of such a strong and supportive community has not only allowed me to connect with people of all ages, but it's also given me the opportunity to meaningful impact the lives of others.

Outside of my church involvement, I am also deeply committed to my volunteer work with Jack & Jill of America, a youth leadership organization focused on civic engagement, cultural heritage, and developing future leaders (jackandjillfoundation.org). As the elected Foundation Chair of the Westchester Chapter for 2025–2026, I take pride in leading community service initiatives and mentoring younger members. One accomplishment I am especially proud of is helping plan our teen fundraiser party. The event surpassed our goal, enabling us to donate over five thousand dollars to My Sister's Place (<https://mispny.org>), which works to end domestic violence and human trafficking while supporting affected women and children.

An experience during my volunteer service that really left a lasting impression on me was the first time I ever worked at the soup kitchen. Growing up in the suburbs, I was extremely sheltered from people who struggled with homelessness and food insecurity. Being in a place where I was faced with these challenges up close completely shifted my perspective. I realized that many of them were just doing their best in a tough situation, and that something as simple as a warm meal and treating them with basic respect and dignity can make all the difference. Without a doubt, I share St. Vincent's Hospital Westchester's philosophy of "respect and compassion for ourselves and others."