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HNRS1010: Gateway to University Honors
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Reflection on Personal Passions/Interests

What?

My passion is for serving my community. I enjoy “getting my hands dirty” and making a positive impact on a large group of people. Interacting with the people in my community gives me such a rush! I am happiest when I can do something for others that makes them smile, whether it is serving in my local food bank, or volunteering at a community event.

My favorite types of community service are the types that allow all walks of life— young and old, male and female, white and black—to participate and come together. Giving myself up to serve others gives me intrinsic value and lets my community members see me at my best. Being a part of a community is a fundamental part of who I am.

So What?

My passion became of interest to me back when I was in the fifth grade when my father took me to our local Knights of Columbus branch to serve food at Lenten fish fries! Initially, I hated it... I did not like having to sacrifice my time for others when there were friends to hang out with, games to play, and parks to play in! But my father kept dragging me along with him, and slowly but surely, I began to enjoy my time there.

Serving my community is significant because it allowed me to come out of my shell. I used to be quite shy before I started interacting with my community. Now, it has helped me overcome my shyness and gain people skills. It is for this very reason that it captivates my interests. I find that I love interacting with people. Serving my community forces me to step out of my comfort zone and to talk to those with whom I normally would not. When I interact with community members, I treat them as I would my family. I truly believe that if it were not for serving in my community, I would still be the shy girl I once was!

Now What?

Finding a way to connect my love of service to my major in Health Sciences is something I would like to investigate further. Obviously, there are some *definite* parallels, for doctors serve their community every day they work. But I want to see how I can more closely relate the two in a way I would truly enjoy. If there is a way to be out in the community, helping others every day, and also have it be medically related, sign me up!

University of Cincinnati’s Center for Community Engagement (CCE) provides the best way for me to engage my passion. They provide me with weekly updates for the best service opportunities, which is a huge help to me. Without the CCE, I would not have as many chances to do what I enjoy. To serve one’s community is to be an active part of it, and it brings me so much happiness to be a part of my community in this way.