



## Cardinal Spellman High School Student Reflections – March 13, 2014

### Emily Hunter, Service Day Reflection

My experience at GiftsToGive was beyond rewarding. I also gained a lot more knowledge on how serious poverty is in this world. I was shocked to find out the average age of someone living in poverty is eight years old. I could never imagine being a little eight year old girl not given the opportunity to choose my own clothes. I thought it was really important that you all at GiftsToGive made it a point to make sure all the clothes were in good condition before they were sent off. One thing that really stood out to me was the fact that some kids in this world live their life without their birthdays being acknowledged. I will be turning eighteen in October, and I could not imagine waking up on my birthday and having it go un-noticed. Starting on my eighteenth birthday and for the rest of my life I will make sure to have people bring gifts to donate to you guys. It would make me so happy to know that some little girl or boy is having his or her birthday noticed and is receiving a gift. Jim said that for every person to walk through those doors a package was made for someone in need. Knowing that I made a package for a kid just by being there and making sure all the toys were working and cleaned is extremely rewarding. Thank you so much for having us Jim! I will be sure to come back soon! Ps: thanks for the pizza also (:

### Brieanna Zine, Service Day Reflection

On Wednesday my classmates and I had the opportunity to visit the charity GiftsToGive in New Bedford, MA. When we arrived, we got a tour of the facility and learned all about what they do at GiftsToGive. At this charity the volunteers collect clothes, toys, books, and much more, they then clean the clothes and toys and make sure they are in perfect condition to send to a child in need. The volunteers also make sure all the pieces to the games are there and the books are in top condition. While there, I had a chance to help clean some of the toys that were being shipped off to kids in the area who needed them most. When I was cleaning the toys, I realized how lucky I was to grow up with things like books, and toys to use as I please. I knew that by doing the simple task of cleaning a toy, I would be a small part in bring a child happiness.

### Rachel Narciso, Service Day Reflection

GiftsToGive is a wonderful organization and my life was forever changed after volunteering with you guys. From the moment we walked in I felt welcomed and empowered. It was definitely refreshing to see charity work that did not get gratification from the people it helps. That is probably my favorite thing about GiftsToGive, you do it because you feel it is right, and you know that you have an opportunity to change a child's life, you aren't in it for the rewards or thanks and praise. I would like to sincerely thank you for changing my outlook on life and helping me to serve those in need. I hope we can make another visit soon, because knowing you're doing something for kids in need is the best feeling there is. Thank you so much for welcoming us and allowing us to assist you, it was a true privilege to be of service at GiftsToGive and meeting people like you and Gilbert has truly inspired me. God bless

### Max Stone, Service Reflection

My experience at GiftsToGive was one I will never forget. I got to see how people take steps to help others and save a community. It was inspiring to see all the people that devote their time to help others and all of the work that gets done. I didn't expect to see such a big warehouse full of items to be donated. The organization and care put into the orders sent out is great. Everything is kept clean and presentable. GiftsToGive definitely goes the extra two miles to give quality items. Seeing people like Gilbert who want to make a difference is heartwarming. Gilbert is a man who gives up a lot of his time to charity out of the kindness of his heart. I congratulate him and everyone else who volunteers at GiftsToGive or any other charity.

### Brielle Luther, Service Reflections

Thank you so much for the opportunity to help out yesterday at GiftsToGive. Hearing the facts about children and families and poverty really hit me because I love kids. The warehouse was so organized and happy. I loved meeting the workers and seeing how much they loved GiftsToGive. I love the concept that GiftsToGive is really focused on kids helping kids, especially in this day and age where so many kids are mainly concerned with themselves. It was eye opening seeing all the donations and the processes involved while preparing a package for a child. I never really thought about the quality of an item before I gave it away. Through this trip, I was able to see that the quality of an item does matter and that if I didn't want something because it wasn't "complete" then another child shouldn't get the leftovers. It was nice to see how much thought and effort went into each and every gift. Cleaning the gifts and making sure they had all the parts was the least I could do. Thank you again for the pizza and the experiences, it was a great day!



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### **Mikala Grimaldi, Service Reflections**

My name is Mikala Grimaldi and I volunteered at GiftsToGive yesterday with my Spellman class. I just wanted to express to you how grateful I was to be able to do anything I could to help you and your organization. I find such joy in helping those who need it and I could tell that Gifts to Give truly does everything that they can to help out children and their families that are in need. Thank you so much for allowing me to take part in this experience. Also thank you for the pizza after! I intend to try and stay in touch with GiftsToGive when it comes to Brockton! Thanks again!

### **Rebecca DeMita, Service Reflections**

I would like to start off by saying thank you for such an amazing day yesterday. Yesterday opens my eyes to how serious a problem poverty is becoming all over the world. When I learned that the average child in poverty is eight years old it broke my heart. The children didn't do anything wrong that makes them deserve such a hard life. I could never imagine not having clothes or hygiene supplies. I absolutely loved being a part of such a wonderful day, even though we were only there for a short time I felt as if I genuinely made a difference. I was surprised when I found out how much care goes into making each package. I like how each toy is cleaned and tested to make sure it works. If I was given a broken toy or a toy that pieces were missing from I would be very upset. I believe that all children should have an opportunity and GiftsToGive seemed to believe that as well. Thank you again for this amazing opportunity and the pizza!