

Nobel Peace Prize Winner Desmond Tutu's message, "Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world," echoes loudly among students determined to usher in a period of change in our world. This message could not be more appropriate considering the negative influences of racism and inequality which feel increasingly prevalent in the 21st century. Critics may feel in some sense that the mantra, "one person can change the world" is flawed. How can the efforts of one individual hold a global impact? These critics fail to examine history but furthermore fail to look at our youth, a generation of individuals who do their little good in a larger effort to bring positivity, peace, and justice to the global community.

A positive global community is contingent on our youth and their contribution, large or small, to their local community. As a servant leader, giving back stands atop my list of priorities. Uplifting those less fortunate regardless of the magnitude of one's contribution is an action which has the ability to disintegrate racial, religious, and cultural barriers. When there is an individual in need, our differences become insignificant, the only race of concern is the human race. Periodically my community service club at CHS and I arrange a project to nourish the homeless in San Francisco. We create packages which contain PB&J's, clean water, socks, blankets, and relief and help numbers. However the most rewarding element of this service project, is finding our way to the streets of San Francisco to personally deliver these packages and make personal

connections. Additionally, my club and I work together to create school supply packages for local elementary schools. We stuff backpacks and boxes with binder paper, pencils, pens, erasers, markers, notebooks and much more. On the surface these small acts appear like tiny gestures of kindness. However, these actions project positivity and a spirit that has a rippling effect in our community. When a few individuals take the step to initiate selfless service intended to spread positivity then we can ensure we have genuine global impact.

The global community has entered a period in the which tension stemming from racial injustice and inequality dominate media. We live in a time where becoming an advocate for our beliefs is more crucial than ever. These issues and how we respond to them will define our generation and youth. If we remain silent then we can't expect change, someone has to stand for today's issues. As a youth advocate I comment on various issues through many different mediums. As a student correspondent for the Concord Pioneer, I use my platform to both tackle social and political issues. When my school was wrongfully accused and attacked on Claycord for starting altercations during a home football game, I wrote an article on why the actions of others shouldn't be associated with principles of Concord High. When Donald Trump was elected, I wrote an article discussing why regardless of your political views, protest should be seen as progress. When college acceptances and denials were revealed, I wrote an article about why true happiness is not a product of accomplishment but rather a feeling achieved through following your passion. Along with the newspaper, I also speak monthly at the MDUSD Board of Education meetings and speak at City Council Meetings on issues such as the current NUSD proposal and will be speaking soon on Sanctuary City propositions. These issues are particularly important to me as they represent my belief in inclusive and diverse educational opportunities and complete protection regardless of

your immigration status. Standing up and speaking up is our clear obligation as our world's future citizens and leaders.

What will bring the peace upon our global community? How can we ensure that our future is brighter than the periods of hatred and injustice which plague us today? Peace is a concept which is often misunderstood. We will never be able to rid the world of violence and hatred that impacts the streets of Concord to the villages of Syria, however, we must not look at this reality and become discouraged. The global community needs our help and there are numerous ways we can make a difference. Peace will be achieved when our human race learns to be understanding, not when we attack our enemies with oppression and violence. When we destroy one enemy, another one will easily rise. We can become understanding when we reach out our hand to those different than us and advocate for our beliefs. These interactions are most effective when they occur across cultures, religions, and races. When we realize that we must break these barriers, we will begin to develop new perspectives. These perspectives are crucial to taking steps towards global peace. We will not be able to remove violence but we must learn to reduce violence, as the pattern of destruction in the 21st century is unprecedented.

Desmond Tutu's belief in the importance of small kind acts is so vital to our global community. The effects of a one person's kind gesture, whether it be a free sandwich or a short comment advocating for a controversial issue, it will have an impact. Your impact may not be evident on the surface, however, I promise you that it does mean something to someone. Positivity, peace, and justice can be achieved through selflessness, advocacy, and a commitment to breaking barriers. The world I live in is poisoned with irrational hatred and injustice but it now falls in our hands to control our futures. I will not see my community, country, or world fall further into the hole of inequality, injustice, and violence.

