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Our Lives of Service

Service takes many forms but no matter how we do it, it's about giving of ourselves for the benefit of others, without expecting anything in return. It's fundamental to our connections in our community. First responders and volunteers are crucial service members that shape both our organizations and work force. Every act of service we commit brings us closer to God, satisfies our thirst to help, and enhances our collective wellbeing. When we prioritize service we empower our community to empathize, cooperate, and connect. This essay will explore what service is, why we have an urge to serve, and how it shapes our communities and school values.

Community service is one of the most common forms of service with the intent to help people in a specific way. Some examples are beach clean ups, volunteering at a soup kitchen, or an animal shelter. Though community service feels specific there's a greater sense of unity in working towards a common goal. Through community service, individuals contribute to both the health and support system in our society. Another form of service is service to one's country. Professions in the military as well as public service jobs like first responders are all ways we can serve our country as a whole. Their commitment to the people demonstrates how dedication and personal sacrifice are key to building a compassionate society. This form of public service is often forgotten about, but it's important to mention how important it is to the society we know; without people sacrificing for us we wouldn't be able to live in a free country with the many services we enjoy. Without the many people who have dedicated their whole lives to service we

would live in a distant world. Thus showing why it's so critical that we acknowledge our first responders as key service members. Small acts of service are also vital to demonstrating what service really is. Helping a neighbor or listening to someone is often impactful in ways that we can't see. These small acts have rippling effects that strengthen bonds and increase our quality of life. They reinforce the supportive, safe, and secure community we desire.

We are motivated to serve due to our personality traits and our external influences like family and friends. From personal experience I know there is deep satisfaction in helping others. As for me, this stems from the sense of empathy and compassion that is reciprocated from uplifting others as well as growing up with a father who was both in the military and law enforcement. By having this external influence I had service instilled into my values. I also have since learned that sometimes just the joy of having a positive impact on someone else's life is a strong enough motivator to provide service. Additionally, there is a sense of pride that can often emerge from sacrifice. This pride that originates from selfless acts instills a sense of accomplishment. When we sacrifice for others, we not only benefit them but we learn more about our own identity and values.

At Newman, service has become an irreplaceable part of our identity. An example is how students are required to accomplish 25 hours of service annually, with a deeper service project coming their senior year. While these are required, we are encouraged to delve deeper and find a connection with our organization and the cause we support. It also teaches us that service should be used as an opportunity to grow and build relationships. Some of the most valuable relationships we form come from sacrifice and service.

By engaging in service, it can also influence our future career choices. Professions such as those in healthcare, emergency response, and the military, are rooted in the idea of service.

Although it may seem as if service is not related to our future careers, it's important to recognize that it can have indirect effects on what we choose to do for the rest of our lives.

Finally, when we serve, we enter a relationship of self giving with God, ourselves, and the beneficiaries of our service. Service is done in many forms including small acts, public service jobs like first responders, and community service, but they're all equally important in ensuring the growth of our society. We are called to service as a result of our personal values as well as influences like family, friends, and groups. Service is also a source of strength our society needs to develop compassion, mutual understanding, and selflessness in our personal values. As a result, service isn't just something we do, but it's the cornerstone of our society.