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As I looked up at the white marble statue towering over me, I was filled with admiration. The intensity of Dr. Martin Luther King's resolute gaze over the tidal basin reminded me of the importance of persevering to fight for a change in society. As I heard the tour guide explain the symbolism of the monument during my eighth-grade field trip to Washington D.C., I could not stop asking myself, "How can I make a difference?"

For as long as I can remember, I have volunteered to help underprivileged families in my community. Seeing Dr. King's monument motivated me to begin my own initiatives, from providing free tutoring to elementary school students struggling in school to running a nonprofit addressing educational inequality by providing students with free standardized exam prep books. Working with these kids opened my eyes to many more disparities in my community. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March 2020 and healthcare providers around the country transitioned to only telehealth visits, I realized many patients do not have access to camera-enabled devices. This disproportionately affected elderly and low-income communities, as these communities have the highest rates of chronic diseases that need regular checkups, and have the lowest rate of smart device ownership. Recognizing that this is a disparity affecting many patients, I joined Telehealth Access for Seniors, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing elderly and low-income patients with free camera-enabled devices to ensure they can connect with their providers. As the Connecticut State Lead, I raised \$10,000 from local organizations and grant applications. I arranged successful drop-offs to numerous community clinics and veteran hospitals. These experiences inspire me to look beyond my daily life and continue to find solutions to problems affecting our society like how Dr. King did.

Dr. King saw a problem affecting many in the world and decided to take action. His undeterred commitment to equality led to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This profoundly impacted the lives of African Americans throughout our country.

After speaking with healthcare providers across the state, I realized that telehealth was just one of many healthcare disparities that low-income patients faced. To uncover the extent of these disparities and to call on policymakers to address these issues, I became a research assistant for Dr. Daniel Wiznia, Yale School of Medicine. I was astonished to find the poor healthcare treatment low-income patients encounter. From fewer acceptances to higher prices to lower triage rates, there is large inequality in healthcare treatment in America. Working with the nonprofits and research team, I am inspired to show courage and take action towards improving my society. As Dr. King once said, "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase." I am excited to take the first steps entering my undergraduate years to continue my research and find solutions to provide equal access to healthcare regardless of socioeconomic status.