

“I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.” I have a dream too, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. inspired me to act on it. I believe, like he did, that everyone is created equal but not everyone starts, lives, or ends up with equal chances. People struggle with poverty from right here at home to places all around the world. That’s why I want to make a difference by donating often, joining community service projects, and encouraging others to do the same.

My recent trip to India changed my perspective about privilege and gratitude. I witnessed adults and kids along busy streets asking for help, hoping people would buy their balloons or strawberries. Seeing poverty up close opened my eyes and made me want to be more thoughtful in my life at home. Since then, I’ve tried to waste less, help my family, and give to others whenever I can. I also learned that people can struggle with poverty for many reasons such as being born into it, losing a job, getting sick, or facing unequal opportunities.

According to the World Bank, about 700 million people in the world live in extreme poverty. Even here in Fairfield County, at least 95,520 residents are food insecure according to Feeding America. If everyone even donated one dollar per year, so many more lives could improve! At my school, students and teachers already participate in community service projects like collecting soup cans and toys, but these events are only seasonal. We can make an even bigger difference by organizing a year-round school drive to collect donations of clothes, money, food, and school supplies for those less fortunate. This way no one misses the deadline, and the longer we hold the drive, the more we can collect!

Dr. King’s words guide my plan, “There is nothing new about poverty. What is new, however, is that we have the resources to get rid of it.” Inspired by his example, I am committed to making a positive change. By organizing a year-round drive, volunteering, and inviting others to help, I want to create a kinder and more equal place for everyone, starting right here in my own community.