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The Lorax

“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.” Those words come from the book *The Lorax* written by Dr. Suess. He was, and is still, one of my favorite children’s authors. I was looking for some sort of inspiration to write this essay, and one of my teachers had recommended starting with a quote. In my browsing I found quotes by many amazing people who did extraordinary things for others, such as Mother Teresa. Quotes from her and a few others gave me ideas, but when I came across this saying, I couldn’t quite remember where it came from. While I was trying to figure out who said it, or where it had come from, it gave me the idea that the rest didn’t. Most of the other quotes were general and talked about things anybody could do if they put a little heart into it.

Before I read this quote, I had been thinking more along the lines of talking about the usual service I provide and why I enjoy it. Don’t get me wrong, I love doing things such as Kids Café, Kids for a Cause, which is a group started by my 4th grade neighbor and a few of his friends, and visiting the sick and elderly. Sadly, I can only participate in those organizations a few times a month. Somehow, this quote brought me to think how I make an impact on people every day.

I read the line a few more times and I started thinking, well what do I do that most people don’t do, or at least they don’t realize it. Dr. Suess is talking to the boy in the story; he’s warning him about what will happen if nobody protects the trees and environment. While the story he wrote is fictional, it still has many real values. The part that talked to me is when he says “someone like you.” It points out that the boy is different from the rest of the characters and he has a special quality none of the others know they have and if he uses his uniqueness for good, he could really help make the difference that will in the end help everybody. I think that Dr. Suess is telling him, if he sets the example of planting that one tree and helping his environment, the rest will follow his lead, but if the boy just lets himself blend into the crowd of the rest of the world, our planet will be in great danger. My friends, family, and even teachers have pointed out time and time again how I do my own thing and don’t fall into peer pressure. Today, people feel that if you don’t dress a certain way or if you don’t wear an inch of make up every day, you’re not “cool.” I’m not exactly sure if this counts as a service or not, but I think it can help others in a positive way, and isn’t that what service is? By dressing my own way, not falling into the peer pressure that surrounds me and doing my own thing, I set an example for others. I hope that I show people that you don’t have to be exactly like everybody else to be surrounded by people who like you. Imagine how boring life would be if everybody was EXACTLY the same. It’s cool to like some of the same things, but why would anyone want to be exactly like someone else when they have their own person to be. I think if people didn’t care as much what other people think of them, the world would be a better, more loving place. I’m not trying to say that you shouldn’t care what you yourself look like, but you shouldn’t care what other people think of how you look, there’s a difference. It works for me, and I love it. Again, I’m not quite sure if it counts as ‘service’ or if other people will follow my lead like the boy in the book, but I hope they will. I think the biggest service anyone could give themselves is being themselves. The biggest thing I can give others, next to friendship or love, is simply acceptance.