

When I think of altruism, I first think of late Sunday nights.

Sunday nights are notorious for late night work for any student whose had a run-in with procrastination. I can recall a few nights trying to complete schoolwork with the support of my mother. Carefully helping me glue pictures to projects in elementary school, or offering passionate arguments to prepare for in-class debates, my mother was always right by my side. She was the first person to show me what the spirit of “doing unto others” was truly about. Giving up her time, sleep, and resources, she chose to invest in me, so that I would one day change the world.

Like Haley Cremer, I consider myself outgoing, enthusiastic and compassionate. But it has been a process to get to this point. As a shy child who was a little too chubby, exuberant, and ethnic, my peers had an unspoken agreement to label me as 'reject'. Some took it upon themselves to try and shoot me down with their arsenal of vicious words; however, my mother helped me to make a shield with the keyboard sitting in our family's living room. The piano keys let me bang on them with all of my energy; letting any anger, pain, and sadness come out through my fingertips. They listened as I worked to overcome this adversity, and by removing me from this negativity in life, they taught me that I was capable of using life's inherent obstacles to motivate myself to accomplish great things.

My life experiences and music have made me a more compassionate and empathetic person that sees potential in others. As a representative on Congressman Joe Kennedy's Youth Cabinet, I have advocated for one of my peers and his family to obtain legal visa status, have mentored incoming freshman SHS, and created the club “Music and Medicine” where we perform in nursing homes. I have also volunteered in several Massachusetts non-profit organizations such as Jumpstart, More Than Words, and Room to Grow and accumulated over 500 service hours in Guatemala teaching music and mentoring youth.

I believe that altruism is like a mirror; it is about seeing ourselves in others. More than just doing a plethora of good deeds, altruism is the principle that cuts to the core of one's being—driving us to see the best in others, and fight for their wellbeing despite any circumstance. That is why I have created an anti-bullying campaign through my music. My song “*Monsters*” which promotes anti-bullying, has accumulated more than 100,000 views on YouTube and was voted best original song by the Boston Young Performer's Club, indicating that people are responding to this anti-bullying campaign.

I would like to continue exemplifying the principle of altruism through my career goal of becoming a public servant. I would like a career in politics not for the purpose of seeking power, but rather to use my own experience and knowledge to create a better world for tomorrow.