

Altruism Completes Society

Altruism is helping other people because you want to. Whenever we complete a selfless act, it is not necessarily because we want to help the person. Altruism eliminates the factor of self-satisfaction and focuses on the core idea of guiding other people.

Altruism is the only real gift you can give to anyone: it creates strong connections amongst people, and it perpetuates goodness. Without altruism, our society today would consist of competitive, selfish people, which we can see in some aspects of our society today. Fortunately, the majority of us feel the strong desire to help other people not because we enjoy increasing our own self-worth, but instead we find joy in seeing the people around us attain happiness and fulfill their goals. It solidifies the harsh barriers society imposes on people by fighting against them with the only weapon we actually know how to use, altruism.

Last summer, Mr. McGee asked me if I was interested in giving saxophone lessons to a fourth grader. Excited, I responded quickly and scheduled our first lesson. My student, frazzled and late, explained that her dad had ALS; it was another sleepless night for their family. The night after my first lesson I kept tossing and turning, thinking about the unjust burden that was imposed on such a kind family. In the beginning, she neglected to talk to me, and the bare sound of music created this unexplainable connection that ran so deep between the two of us. As the weeks progressed, I began to notice how she began to blossom like a rose: she improved tremendously, and we became closer. She told me that she forgot the sound of her father's voice, but every time she played her saxophone in front of him she knew he was smiling. Seeing her change from a quiet girl who could not play a single note to a talented, funny saxophone player made me happier than I ever could imagine. This desire to help the family created one of the most important bonds in my life.

This family taught me how to appreciate every good part of my day, fight through the hard times, and never stop believing. I never realized how lucky I am to have a healthy family. Also, I learned how important it is to be open to meeting new people, for every new person you meet opens a new door of opportunities and learning experiences. When I first moved to Sharon freshman year, I was worried about the transition from Naperville, a suburb of Chicago, to such a small town. I managed to meet some of the most compassionate, kind people here at Sharon High School. Coincidentally, the girl I give saxophone lessons to moved from a nearby town in Illinois because the ALS research is better in Boston. I was lucky to have the opportunity to aid this familiar transition for their family, and I hope to continue meeting new people through this connection of past experiences.