



The Princeton Club of Rochester

Doug Bates
Senior, Waterloo High School

In terms of positive leadership and initiative in service to others, Doug seems to be an accomplished multi-tasker. This Waterloo High School senior is part of myriad community and global projects aimed at bettering the lives of people at home and around the world. Pastor Dale Andrews recognizes that Doug's passion comes from within:

“Doug is a very well mannered young man who puts the needs of others at the forefront of his life. Doug cares deeply for the less fortunate and works hard to make the lives of others better.”

Throughout 2015-2017, Doug spearheaded efforts -- via yard sales, bottle return drives, and scrap metal recycling -- that raised nearly \$3,000 for Compassion International's Water for Life program, which provided 38 clean water systems to underserved communities around the world. The work is a double blessing by providing underserved local families with sale items that Doug collected. Doug has also been working with Operation Christmas Child through Samaritans Purse, and the Seneca County Community Christmas Project, in both cases providing Christmas gifts and celebration for children -- in his own community and around the world -- who might not otherwise have any Christmas. Doug also volunteers with a local food pantry as another way to reach out to those in need. In each of these forms of outreach, he notes that racial harmony has been an ongoing theme, whether explicit or implicit.

“It is an indescribable feeling of empathy that I helped a diversity of kids I many never meet. ... You can...help save someone's life across the world, a different race from you, beginning in a small town like Waterloo, New York.”

At school, Doug is part of the Student Superintendent Council, where students are trained to be peer counselors concerning issues that include racism and self-segregation. Doug has also formed a school group called “Purpose,” working with other student leaders to discuss, solve and prevent racial incidents that often dominate current events.

“Primarily, we express and define love through our service by promoting an end to bullying concerning racism, giving a reality perspective to life and (also) being an outreach to help when called to action.”

Doug hopes to establish this group as an ongoing organization after he graduates. Also on the horizon, Doug is buying a food truck he will name, “Beyond the Plate.” He hopes to give troubled youth a fresh start and donate profits to groups involved in race issues.

This is an impressive portfolio of compassionate work, Doug, and we wish you great success.