

Anusha Syed – Builders Club Speech

My name is Anusha Syed and I am the Secretary of the Woodland Middle School Builders Club. The Kiwanis Organization has been a part of my life for the past five years. I started as a K-Kid member in the fourth grade and knew I would continue in middle school as a Builders Club member. As I look to the future, I can proudly say that I will be a part of the Key Club in the high school.

Builders Club has impacted me in such a positive way. My hopes and aspirations that I have gained from being a part of such a caring organization has helped me to set goals for the future to become a public servant or politician so that I can help people every day as Builders Club has taught me. I understand and support Anne Frank when she said, “How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.” Even children can impact the world every day! In order for anyone to be able to change the world, they need to start small like with their community.

In order to effectively help my community, it is necessary to be able to assess my community’s needs. To complete this process, I must know and understand my community. For example if I live in a small community where the school district has been impacted by the economic status of its citizens, I would begin various fundraisers to buy school supplies for students whose families are more concerned with putting food on the table every night. I could also donate some of the fundraising money to allow these students more opportunities in school like having more electives as in art and music. It is well known that when school budgets do not pass there is a chance that electives will be discontinued. This is terrible since the arts add so much joy and fun to every day in school. On the other hand if I live in a community that is wealthy, the focus of donating money can be spent on improving the environment in the community through parks and recycling.

There are steps that should be taken in order to assess the community that you live in. The first step is always to know and understand the community. The way to accomplish this goal is to listen to your community. This can be done by hosting weekly meetings for people to share their concerns and suggestions about improvements in the community. The final step in the assessment to the community is to take action. This step is the most important of all of them because it is where changes can be seen.

I have had personal experience with assessing my community in East Meadow. I was born in Queens and when I was in first grade my family moved to Long Island. As any school year begins, we as students become excited to receive our school lists from our teachers and shop for supplies. Then the next week all of our binders and papers are brand new and packed in our nice new backpacks. There is a sense of excitement in the beginning of school. As I grew older I realized that there were some students who did not have this excitement. I was surprised when I realized that Long Island actually had students living in communities that could not afford school supplies. If students did not have school supplies how could they learn? This had to have a negative impact on their learning abilities. When I discovered this problem I decided that I was going to change my community one step at a time. I was able to raise over the summer \$3000.00 for school supplies to be donated to Woodland Middle School in East Meadow. I took the money that we raised and approached the two teachers at my school who were in charge of helping these students without school supplies. The teachers explained to me that these students would be able to pick up the supplies from these teachers and could even get to choose the color binders they wanted. The great thing about it was that the whole process was confidential so the students would not have to feel bad. These supplies enable these students to receive a fair opportunity at being successful at school. I felt amazing and great inside that I was able to help out my fellow classmates and even some of my friends.

This summer I plan on raising money again for school supplies but this time not only will I help my community, I am looking to help the other communities on Long Island. I am trying to get other schools to team up with me through selling candy, having bake sales, and donations to buy school

supplies for students all over Long Island. So as you can see something as small as just helping your community can turn into helping the Island. Who knows in a couple of years I could potentially impact the world!

Thank you for your time and opportunity to speak with you!