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Life in the Time of the Coronavirus

The Unknown

We live in a society now where we are forced to make adjustments on how we live in order for us to contribute in helping others throughout what is known as the Coronavirus or COVID -19 pandemic. This virus came into our world so rapidly and shook things up by impacting everyone's lives around the world. The thought of this virus makes me quiver in fear as it feels like the world is about to collapse and drown like the Titanic. Reading articles about ordinary people doing good duties to help make a difference throughout this time has been very intriguing to me. It makes me wonder, " What can I do to help my community and people around the world feel better and make a little difference in someone's life?" "How can I help prevent this virus from spreading, help those who are more vulnerable than me, and those who are sick?"

I read an article called *Generosity,* and it was about businesses and ordinary people finding ways to give to others during this time of need. For example, a British war veteran by the name of Captain Tom Moore is 99 years old and began walking laps around his garden for donations and was able to raise over $15 million dollars. In reading this, it inspired me to want to do the same. I then thought, "What movement can I make to pave the way to make something like this happen?" I then decided that I will begin to organize a canned food drive and call it "Food for Hope" where I will ask people to drop off canned goods in an organized location and use that to help feed families in need. I will use social media to help spread the word and make food baskets with those donations, and deliver them to those who are more vulnerable and are not able to do their own shopping because they are at high risk. This will be a great weight lifted from someone's shoulder who may be struggling to feed their family throughout this time.

Furthermore, how can I move mountains by creating something that will motivate and encourage people to do their part in order to prevent the virus from spreading? You see, our future is in everyone's hands. The City of El Paso gave an order that everyone must wear a face mask when out in public, keep a six feet distance between you and another person, consistently

and thoroughly wash your hands, and not surround yourself with someone who does not live in your household and avoid social gatherings. You would think it is no big deal to abide by these rules since it is for our own safety precautions, however, on April 25, 2020, as I was reading the El Paso Times, I realized there are many people out there who are against these rules and feel they should not be told what to do. It is against their liberal rights. Liberal rights? Really? During a pandemic? Who would've thought? When being asked the question, "How has this experience impacted the way I would contribute to society in the future," it opened up a whole new perspective on how I see things and how my point-of-view matters. I then decided to find a way to motivate and encourage people in my community to abide by these rules to help save lives. I am a senior, and I feel like I am missing out on a very important event(s) in my life. I have a family who loves me and encourages me throughout this difficult time, which made me think of all the seniors experiencing this hardship as well and how they have families who love them. So, why not create a social media chain where every senior in El Paso takes a picture of themselves, wearing their cap and gown, a face mask, and holding a sign that has some kind of inspirational quote that will inspire and encourage people to want to do their part by following the rules to prevent the virus from spreading. It will be even better to display those pictures on billboards so that everyone who is out there may see them and remember those they love. Maybe by doing so, we will have a future to look forward to.

Nonetheless, in spite of all these fears and wonders I am currently facing, I feel like the experiences I am going through now will help me become a better person in the future. I am not only thinking about my future career; I am also thinking about different ways to help people in my community. I see doctors and nurses on the frontlines of this crisis, which gives me a vision I never had before. You see, my plan is to study dentistry and all I was thinking about until now is for me to work hard to get there. Now I think, "How can I accomplish my goal and use that education to help others?" Now that I am going through this, it's simple, I would waive fees so people may continue their dental services, I would donate money for research to be better prepared, I will continue to help those more vulnerable either by creating a charity or spread the word to "Pay it Forward." If nothing is ventured, then nothing is gained.

With all things considered, I still wonder what the new "normal" will look like for me. What will it look like within my community and around the world? What will it look like for my senior classmates? Will it bring people closer together or will we begin to deteriorate? All in all, people notice when you do one good deed and make others want to pay it forward. Isn't that what this is all about?