

As President of Student Council, I lead initiatives for my school to become more civically and global minded. We have numerous honors societies, but we did not have the Rho Kappa Social Studies National Honor Society. I noticed this glaring omission at my school and began to get the ball rolling to imitate our inaugural chapter and now serve as the Founder and President. This was going to serve as my senior project; however, through this process began to research various organizations that help with services for communities in need, and discovered the Seva Foundation. After learning of this foundation's impact and incredible importance to our local and global community, I knew I wanted to be a part of this team and bring this to Rho Kappa. The word *Seva* is Sanskrit for “Selfless Service” and the heart of the Social Science discipline is giving of one's talent and knowledge to better humanity. I immediately reached out to the Seva Foundation, and I am proud to say I am a part of the inaugural group of 12 Seva Ambassadors: their global teen outreach leadership team. I created a project that communicates the importance of eye care for everyone, everywhere in the world, and locally raises support and awareness for the Seva Foundation’s mission. My project goal is to bring awareness to the challenges blindness facing millions around the world and that blindness is curable.

In addition to authoring a year-long research paper, I organized and hosted a “Yoga for Sight” Event for the girls in my high school. The key to “Yoga for Sight” is simulation. The event was completed in the dark with all participants blindfolded to simulate the lack of one’s vision sense to increase empathy for people who live with blindness. After the event I showed Seva’s short documentary to further awareness of curable blindness. Awareness can change the world. For every person that attended my “Yoga for Sight” event, a donation was made for a surgery to cure blindness. As a result of the awareness raised here in our community, we were able to give twenty-five blind people a life changing surgery restoring their sight. This surgery takes 15 minutes and costs \$50.

I am honored to leave a legacy of service through the creation of the St. Anne-Pacelli Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society. I intend to continue my project make a difference in Neuroscience through opportunities in Optometry and the vision field. I have been accepted to Georgia Institute of Technology’s Neuroscience Program as a Gold Scholar. These opportunities will allow me to further my project impact and continue to contribute to reducing poverty through my own compassion in action. I hope to one day work as an Optometrist with SEVA and go to Guatemala to actually serve in a life changing capacity by restoring and correcting vision.