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2023 High School Scholarship Essay Contest
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Doing Good in the Multiverse

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Over the past few years, it has become increasingly difficult to escape the theory of the multiverse. With the widely successful movie, *Everything Everywhere All at Once*, it feels as if the multiverse theory has become increasingly solidified in popular culture's consciousness. The movie's main characters struggle to find meaning in life because of the infinite outcomes in other universes. They succumb to a sense of nihilism and look for ways to escape the suffering they face due to their perceived meaninglessness. It is only when thanks to the help of an effervescent character named Waymond, they realize that happiness can be achieved when you commit to loving and caring for others.

When I think about the uncompromising size of the universe, I too have felt insignificant, however, I am beginning to realize that it is imperative I reject these feelings of nihilism and instead look for more possibilities to make an impact in my own community. Rather than be burdened by the seemingly incomprehensible size of the world we live in, I must be encouraged by its complexity to strive for meaning and purpose.

That still leaves the question, how can I find meaning and purpose? Thankfully, I have Jane Goodall to look up to as a strong solution to this burning question. She once said that when faced with an unrelenting amount of problems, it is important to "think globally act locally."

The work she did throughout her life embodies these words. Jane became devoted to speaking up on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves. Her efforts in wildlife preservation and advocacy for the lives of chimpanzees sparked a global perception shift. In the Gombe National Park, Jane was inspired to create a local impact that spread worldwide.

What makes life so meaningful and important is that each and every one of us also has the ability to choose what type of impact we plan on making. Throughout my life, I have been strongly influenced by the work my parents have done in public service. It is my goal that one day I too can make a similar impact by working on a policy that can have a direct effect on the lives of those in my community.

Using Waymond's mindset I have already worked on education policy and expanded access to community college classes for high school students that could serve as a model for students in other communities.

Working with refugees at Camp Nefesh, not only I have been impacted by their unwavering optimism, but I have also taught them how to move forward and adapt to new life.

Who knows what'll lie in the future? For all we know universes could collide next week! But until that happens, we each have the ability to treat others with care and compassion. We each have the ability to solve problems with a local mindset.

Rather than let the multiverse scare us, I say let it empower us to make a difference here and now.