Everyone makes choices every day about how they affect the world around them, and those choices make all the difference. When someone throws a piece of trash on the ground, they may think that it isn't that big of a deal. But if everyone in the world did that exact same action, then that would be 8 billion pieces of trash thrown on the ground in one day. Wouldn't it be wonderful if 8 billion people chose to do one act of kindness every day instead?

In my own life, I am trying to make good choices and help others even if the acts are small ones. I have tried to help others through my volunteerism. I sewed masks for the elderly during the pandemic. I have volunteered at the local library by shelving books and at the local shelter by walking dogs. I am a Teacher's Aide for five different classes at my high school. I believe that all of these acts make a difference in the world around me. If I have made even one person or animal's life easier or happier due to my actions, then that is a positive impact. My actions can also create a ripple effect where those I have helped might be kinder and more helpful to others because someone was kind and helpful to them. I think that by working with others, and deliberately choosing to be kind and helpful to others, we can make a positive impact on a large scale.
A key moment for me in seeing choices and how it can affect change on a large scale, was when I was involved in writing postcards for the 2020 election. With other volunteers, I wrote individualized postcards that went out to people who did not regularly vote. The election ended up having the biggest voter turnout of the 21st century. I am in no way saying this was all because of myself and fellow volunteers, but I think if we were able to convince even one person to have walked up to the polls that day, it was a job well done. This experience for me was one of the first times I got to truly experience such a large group of people working together for a common cause with the intention of encouraging and helping others.

Last summer, I was selected to join the American Civil Liberties Union's National Advocacy Institute, a program that included lectures from important speakers and lessons about a variety of predominant issues. It was there where I got to learn more about activism and how a group of people can affect change. One day I hope to become an attorney and, through my career, help others in need.

Every action is a choice and matters and results in an impact on the world. What a wonderful world it would be if everyone would make helpful and kind choices realizing that every act, however small, has an impact on everyone and everything around them.