



**2022 Recipient ~ Isiah Weir**  
**Bronxville High School, Class of 2022**

I showed up to my first Habitat for Humanity build as a rising freshman with very few skills in construction. I worked alongside a group of other unknown high schoolers, most of them probably forced to be there by their parents. Over the next week, we not only learned how to build, repair, and organize, we became a community. Nothing in my experience brings people together better than shared service and ministry. That is because both of those words are directly related to the concept of a servant. Ministry even comes from the Latin minus, meaning less.

Being a servant is also definitionally a demeaning experience. We do not want to serve, we want to be served! However, if this pride is laid aside, being a servant is not only a rewarding experience, but one which unites disparate groups. This has been my experience in almost every service project I have participated in. Through almost forty hours of builds for Habitat for Humanity, I grew closer to that first group, then to others in my high school in working for and now leading our Habitat club, and even to students from other high schools in coordinating club activities. Through more than ten hours of tutoring struggling students from poor school districts, I grew closer to adult coordinators, other tutors, and the students themselves. Through more than sixteen hours of working to help my Church and seminary, I grew closer to other members and to youth from around the Church. Even through a four hour service project of teaching elementary schoolers math concepts, I grew closer to members of my school's math club. The one service project which I did largely alone was conducted over the course of the Covid pandemic, and involved over eighty hours of historical archiving. While this had to be done alone for health concerns, I wish that I could have done it with others, as it would have helped all of us. As so much of this country divides over different issues, stronger communities must be formed, most of all by humility, as people become servants together.