

As part of my summer 2024 activities, Mrs. Martha Sud, Director of The Early Childhood Bilingual Program in the Don Bosco Community Center, offered me the opportunity to serve the center in Port Chester, New York, as a two-week educator intern and based on my academic proficiency in Spanish I was also asked to directly help native Spanish speakers. I spent a total of sixty-hours teaching children in or below the elementary school level literacy and conversational skills in English and Spanish. Given my Peruvian heritage and relationship with Latin American culture, my ability to relate and communicate with people of international origins was introduced at an early age. Harnessing my personal experience, I empathize with the children learning two languages at the same time. During my internship, I applied code-switching, a method of showing an image of a word and saying it in Spanish and English. I was able to witness the impact of my service because the children expressed increased fluency in both languages as the days progressed. Creativity, perseverance, and kindness became my tools, as I navigated the challenge of teaching children, who comically do not want to listen to me repeat the color purple in English and Spanish. During my service in the Don Bosco Early Learning Bilingual Program, one child impacted me significantly, and she ironically shared my first name. On her first day at the center, she demonstrated negative behavior and lack of communication, and I was assigned to take care of her and play with her. When the first week was over, she showed tremendous growth by verbally communicating, showing optimistic behavior in class, and increased interest in drawing. I established a trusting relationship with her, and her previously negative attitude towards me became positive and affectionate as we grew closer. On my last day at the center, I was given a drawing created by a student that said, "Thank you for helping me grow," expressing the creativity and artistry I helped them cultivate. My experience at the center prompted me to ask Ms. Karen Panarella, Assistant Head of Upper

School for Student Life, to create a fundraiser to provide school supplies to the children in the center. This fundraiser successfully raised over one thousand one hundred dollars and benefited all of the children I served in Don Bosco. Additionally, this school year Dr. Melissa Pecullan gave me the opportunity to tutor middle school students at Sacred Heart Greenwich. I have accumulated four direct hours of community service, and my service with the students has helped further their understanding and my perseverance and creativity to teach effectively. My service in Don Bosco and Sacred Heart Greenwich reflects St. Vincent's mission of respecting the human person through service to the community because my service enhances the education of the community's children, respecting their right to knowledge. It is my hope to continue the teachings of St. Vincent, together with those of Sister Stuart, which I also represent as a scholar at Sacred Heart Greenwich, enabling me to continue doing good and learning from their examples of leading exemplary lives of service.