Contribution to Community

For a 4 month period in my hometown of Jasper, GA, I attempted to help open a non-profit service to help veterans in need. The service would’ve included helping them find jobs, getting them counselling services if they had any mental trauma, and renovating old warehouses into apartments if they needed a home to stay in. What prompted this attempt to help was after speaking with an older veteran in his 80s named Pete in a restaurant. Pete was driving 4 hours every day to see his wife in a hospital in Macon. The restaurant we met in would often feed him for free, as he didn’t have money to pay for the food. He was spending all his money on gas, and since the VA was giving him a low amount of money per month, he was not able to cover many of his expenses. It was this experience that moved me to attempt and produce this non-profit. Sadly though, our 501c3 application was denied, and due to my college starting, I was unable to make another attempt at it. During the summer in 2017 (when this venture was attempted), I dedicated around 5 hours each day to setting up a free forum board for the people involved to communicate, whilst simultaneously learning HTML, JavaScript, and CSS in an attempt to set up a basic website for us to get our message out. Although our 501c3 was denied, this experience changed me as a person. It brought into a light a lot of the struggles that other faced, those less fortunate, who didn’t have the benefits, the privilege, or the resources I did to lead a better life. It made me realize that we need to extend a helping hand to our fellow humans, because sitting around thinking someone else will help gets absolutely nothing done. Once I’m out of college, I plan to make another attempt at this, because after seeing Pete’s struggle, and the struggle of others, I feel that it is an important area in which I could make a difference.