I care about climate change because I want to help people. I want to help people not only live, but thrive. I care about climate change because and because it’s one of the most pressing issues of our time. It’s connected to so many other problems that we, as a collective, as a community, need to solve. Caring about Climate change is important because it’s a social justice, a racial justice, and gender equality issue. It connects to health care, housing, human rights, food insecurity, child poverty. It’s a complex and many times overwhelming issue, that cannot be solved with one technology or one grand idea or one person or even one group of people. It needs broad, collective action. Some people have been doing the work and we need to recognize and support those people more, especially people that are usually left out or left behind – people of color, indigenous people. We need to look to those people for better, more diverse leadership. But we also need to recognize that some people can barely survive. We need to recognize that those least responsible for this climate crisis, are the ones bearing most of the burden of it. Solving this climate crisis is more than just fixing the ozone layer or planting a few trees or saving a polar bear, all of those things are extremely important and we need people that care about them. But it’s also about lifting people out of poverty. It’s about giving people housing, clean air, clean drinking water, and opportunities.

I care about climate change also because I want to help every aspect of the environment and this beautiful planet that we all call home. I care about The plants and animals and the ocean and the land and the mountains and Michigan’s beautiful great lakes. The outdoors is such a calming place to be and we should protect it.

Why do I care about climate change – well to sum it up it’s because I believe in a more happy, inclusive, equitable future for all and we need to address this climate crisis if we want to get to that more happy and equitable future.

My hope for the future is just that, for it to be that is more equitable. And hopefully less stressful too. Equitable clean energy for all, equitable clean transit systems, equitable and efficient housing, equitable and policies, better air and water quality everywhere, healthier, more resilient and regenerative agriculture that keep our soil healthy, and overall that every area of life is less wasteful (like we’re able to feed everyone with the food we grow and not throw it away. And we’re not throwing away other things too, and a more circular system). More sharing, more community. Less stress, more happiness. Less fear, more love.

As of right now, I found that it’s a little less stressful when you realize that you don’t need to do it alone. I just named a lot of problems and I definitely forgot some and they all overwhelm me. But I nor anyone else alone can fix all of these problems. We can’t even fix just one of these problems if we worked by ourselves. We will work as a community.