

1. I learned that it can be hard to ask for help because it means to trust in someone that is a complete stranger. This isn't always the safest in the mind of someone needing help. When a stranger provides help, it can go really well or becomes a nightmare, especially because you don't know them. I believe that an organization that does advocate for donations (which can be anonymous) and help showcase how you can build trust in a community. In addition, it simply highlights that these are people in need, and that we may not think about them everyday, but they still desire the same thing we all do. That is having a better life.

Many can start looking at education or job opportunities to be able to provide for themselves (and family) and getting closer to their dreams. Many of these families came with children and like any parents and guardians, they hope for something better for their kids than what they had. I realize this is what my parents also wished for me as well, and now I'm currently delivering that wish. The difference is they need more help to get in a place to get education brought to them and/or their families.

2. I think the ways we helped through collecting and distributing clothes, raising funds, and overall building community support, was able to create a bigger impact that many people don't anticipate. I can say I was skeptical on how it can really make a difference because there were a few donations that I personally saw, which were big donations but also small. I learned that mutual aid and grassroots organizing can still drive a big change that may seem insignificant to some. This captures how people that feel like they can't give back can actually provide just a bit is just enough to make someone feel closer to more stability.

To add, I think even hearing and seeing the people that we helped gives that reassurance that the help that was provided would be helpful in the way it was intended. You can grow incredibly grateful for what you have, but also understand that you can also give that gratitude back to someone else.

3. I felt like the second study gave me an opportunity to give more insight on me personally. I was able to resonate with the questions and be able to represent as a first generation American in my immigrant family. I definitely see how these questions can also be in someone's mind among the public in our own neighborhoods. Many came into this country for that sort of dream, it may not have exactly included education off the bat, but there is still an idea of hope for a better life. I think seeing how many people have this idea among their families in order to get new and better opportunities. Because of this, I believe that this survey was able to provide that opportunity for those that are like me.

When it comes to making policies, organizations, and other forms of help, it's important to hear people's stories and concerns because those are the people that will be affected most by any potential future changes. I always thought bringing humanity into the conversations that are involved with people can help find better solutions to issues that many can face. Small steps like these surveys can better visualize the issue than what surface level information can bring. Especially effective when you are able to connect with people that can resonate with the issues being discussed.

4. This experience mainly confirmed, but also challenged me a bit. I was skeptical how much we can really help considering it can be hard to find any donations or people to participate in surveys nowadays. Sometimes I feel that many think of themselves or their own family instead of others. I believe there isn't inherently wrong with that, but I can see how we can underestimate our own abilities to give back. That is what I learned from this experience. If we all just gave at least a little back, it can still help many lives.

Some things I did notice that stems from my skepticism was there weren't many people that we tried to spread the word for to help out. I do wonder if it expanded outside of local circles if it would have picked up better. I think one of the challenges is getting people to help out and how to essentially advertise it in a way to gain more attention. Overall, even with what we had it still helped out many people with their daily lives.

5. My time with ChiEAC helped me see that there is no action too small. I also work in retail and have experienced people with different walks of life, so I tried to make someone to at least smile and show some kindness. This experience helped me further believe that and

understand that complexity that helping out can bring. I understand that there will be people that may not want to help or feel like they can't. We, of course, can't force anybody, but I know more the value of just giving a little. I will definitely like to help out more in the future.

Although I may not see myself as being fully immersed in this type of work, I believe I will still carry the values behind it throughout my life. This experience and my time with ChiEAC has shown me what people are capable of doing. I would love to keep learning about people's stories and help a bit when I can. I think it's crucial now to have that sense of hope and humanity in a world full of uncertainty and mistreatment.