ChiEAC Research Assistant Reflection

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1. Serving migrant and refugee families taught me that these families face barriers that not a lot of people think about in their day to day lives. For example, most people do not have to think about not being able to afford clothing. Providing clothing for migrant and refugee families made me realize that I should be grateful for the clothes that I have in my closet. I am able to collect clothes for fun because I have a good amount of money, but migrant and refugee families may not have enough money to afford “nice-looking” clothing.
2. My role in collecting and distributing clothing for migrant and refugee families did not honestly shift the way I view mutual aid that much. I already knew what mutual aid was before I took on the role of collecting and distributing clothing. Therefore, I was not surprised to see mutual aid in action. I’m not really sure any strong emotions came up for me as I gave away clothing. I have given away clothing plenty of times before.
3. N/A
4. This experience confirmed for me that a community united for one cause is a powerful community. The fact that we were able to raise $2,000 for ChiEAC’s 2025 Community Impact Fund is incredible, as is the fact that we were able to donate 500 pounds of clothing. It has become even clearer to me after this experience that the future must be a future that is community-oriented, not profit-oriented. We must work to redistribute power so that it is in the hands of the many, not the few. This will require us to revolutionize the way we think about community.
5. My time with ChiEAC, as I briefly mentioned above, made me realize that the future must be community-oriented as opposed to profit-oriented. If our society continues to remain a society built on the idea that we should always be chasing profit instead of caring for others, humanity will only get greedier, more selfish, more competitive, and more disconnected from what makes us human. In addition, searching endlessly for profit will damage the planet. One cannot have infinite growth on a finite planet. We must destroy any systems of oppression before they destroy us.