1: Serving migrant and refugee families in Chicago taught me that trust is built through consistency, empathy, and cultural respect. Many families are afraid to open up and seek help. Once they do get comfortable it means to listen and understand what they are going through and how you can help them.

2: Taking on the responsibility of collecting clothing, raising funds, and organizing community support helped me understand that aid is about solidarity, not charity. It showed me that power of people coming together to care for one another directly, without waiting on a large institutions. It really opened my eyes that if people come together as a community, we can really make a difference.

3: The research study that resonated most with me was advertising the survey on social media and trying to get my family and friends to donate. Some of my family and friends did donate and that showed me that by bringing it up once around family members or posting it on my social media and getting just a few people to donate can really help a lot of people in need.

4: This experience really showed me that these big communities and organizations play a very big role in addressing complex issues like job research. These organizations are powerful because they are rooted in relationships and lived in experience, but they can’t solve everything alone. I now see their strength in building trust and adapting quickly, but also understand the need for a solid system of support to make their efforts sustainable and far reaching.

5: Looking back at the ChiEAC project, I realize that in about six months the class really did a whole lot for the community. In the future I definitely want to volunteer for my community and give back to them and go to my local mosque and help volunteer there as well. I definitely will make it a goal to do what I can for my community.