Sociology Reflection

Oakton College

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1. What I learned from serving migrant and refugee families in Chicago was that trust and support is so important when it comes to trying to access education. There’s a long, difficult and confusing process that families have to take to enroll their children into school. Oftentimes, language is a huge barrier for many families. Not being able to communicate and understand makes this process more difficult. This process has shown me that educational equity isn’t just having schools available but making sure that families are able to use them. People need to be listened to and supported.
2. Distributing clothing, raising funds and organizing community support is not just the simple act of participating in charity but it’s about people taking care of one another when the system is falling short. I personally lose sight of the big picture many times, I forget that my problems are drastically smaller than others. There’s families that struggle to have clothing, food or simply to obtain an education for their child. Realizing this, it made me feel sad and empathy for these people. Through these different roles I saw how important grassroots organizing is. Grassroots alone is very important and powerful but it works best when there is a larger, long term solution.
3. One of the research studies that resonated the most with me was raising money for ChiEAC’s 2025 Community Impact Fund. The reason why this resonated the most with me was because I think it’s so important to raise not only financial support but awareness of what can be done to help people in need. In my experience, I know how important organizations like this can help immigrant families.Throughout the years, me and my family have seen how much family friends have struggled due to their immigration status. The feeling of not having enough to provide not only for themselves but for their loved ones. Organizations like this helped them find places where they can afford healthcare, clothing and basic necessities.
4. This experience made me realize how much further work can be done to address complex issues. I have believed that the power of community organizations can be strong to help solve active problems but in this experience I saw the challenges behind it. There aren't a lot of people to actively help in these community organizations. Many community organizations operate with minimal funding and limited staff that is overworked due to the amount of work needed to be done but not enough people to work on it. What I think now after my experience is that community organizations are helpful and vital to creating change and helping people. Organizations should receive background support from institutions to provide them with better resources, funds and more active help.
5. This experience has made me realize how much I want to play a role in helping people. It has helped me realize that many times we are too hyper focused on our personal problems and what is happening to us. That we lose sight of looking at what is happening around us and what we can do to help those in need. I want to play an active role in helping individuals and families who need the support and help not only financially but genuine help in getting their life back on track. I plan to research more in local organizations and see how I can help. Also donate financially and other resources to help.