

Describe an activity you participated in

Make a Birthday Wish is a charitable organization that works with high schools in our community. Schools take turns putting on monthly birthday parties for kids who are born in that month and go to the local food bank. Students call each family to invite them, plan the party, and then celebrate!

Describe your experience participating in this activity

I originally joined MABW because I enjoy decorating and party planning. I loved the idea of doing these things for a good cause. Serving as a member, then secretary, then vice president, and now president of MABW, I am implementing inclusion, delegation, and empathy.

At first, I sought after a cabinet leadership position because I felt frustrated that many of the decisions were being made solely by the cabinet members. After I joined the cabinet, I made a special effort to include the entire club by having all of the members brainstorm and vote on ideas more often.

In a further effort to include everyone and to help with delegation, I suggested and created a committee system. Whether someone is on the food, decoration, gift, or organization committee, everyone feels like they are part of the club and that their contributions matter.

Through working with this club, I have also developed a greater sense of empathy for those around me who are in need. Seeing how many children and families go to the food bank every day has opened my eyes to just how much need there is. As I work with these families, I am able to see how grateful they are, and it has humbled me to know how much it can help someone to feel celebrated.

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During the summer I worked full time at Carl's Jr. starting at 5:30 am, and now work there on Saturdays. Since our location is small, when I am working I am the opener, trainer, cashier, drive-thru manager, and custodian.

Describe your experience participating in this activity

With the goals of gaining experience while earning money for college, I started working at Carl's Jr., where I am acquiring many valuable skills including communication, leadership, and assertiveness.

Most of the cooks only speak Spanish, so I have found creative ways to communicate with them. One cook, Maria, left her children and grandchildren in El Salvador to come and work. At first, I was intimidated by her because she was not afraid to raise her voice or glare at everyone. One day, she came to work sore from her COVID vaccination, so I helped her wash dishes and carry boxes. From that day onward, I continue to assist her and try my best to learn Spanish words and phrases. She began making an effort to learn the English words I taught her, she softened, and now we are great friends.

After working for just a couple of weeks, my manager deemed me the new employee trainer. I learned how to take the lead and give instructions in a friendly way.

One of the most important skills I am developing is sticking up for myself and being assertive. On many occasions, my manager wants me to stay longer than eight hours, or run extra errands for him. At first, I

agreed to all of his requests, but I soon realized that I need to set boundaries. This is important for me to learn, and I am still working on assertiveness, not only at work, but in other areas of my life.