

- The Community And My Impact
- JAG@Northpoint Academy
- 5279 N. Mayo Trail, Pikeville, Kentucky, 41501
- Competitor - Ethan Justice
- Specialist - Rick Branham
- March 4, 2022
- Word count - 489

When was the last time you did a service for your community? Were you able to see your own impact? Before joining my JAG program, I never dreamed that I could make an impact on my community. Now, I am able to influence others through projects like our non-profit free store, our student run thrift store, and our homeless shelter donations. Thanks to these projects, I realize that together we can make an impact in our community.

The Free Resource Store is my favorite way to contribute to my community. The school district provides a space on our campus where we warehouse necessities such as clothing, food, school supplies, and hygiene products. These services are provided for those in need, all free of charge. For example, because of the free store, I have had the opportunity to help the struggling mom feed her children. Furthermore, I have helped classmates who are having a rough time at home. My JAG program has made a way for these burdens to be lifted and see those served leave our center smiling. Together we can provide students and local community members with much-needed supplies for absolutely zero dollars.

In addition to the Free Resource Store, my JAG Program operates a retail thrift store. Similar to your local Goodwill, our retail store offers clothing, shoes, and household items that we obtain through donations and from our partnership with the United Helping Hand. We sell these items back to shoppers from our community at an affordable price. While we give thrifty shoppers an outlet to find treasures, families with lower incomes have the opportunity to provide necessities for their families. More importantly, our thrift store gives JAG students an opportunity to get

valuable retail job experience to students who would not have had that opportunity otherwise. Our thrift store, along with our free store, impact both the student body and the community.

Our donations to the local homeless shelter are by far the most impactful project in our JAG program. As a group effort, we filled plastic tubs with clothing, hygiene products, and food, which we delivered to residents at the shelter. Seeing the appreciation from the residents and shelter workers embraced us and made clear the impact of what “Together We Can” has on our community.

Finally, this is how JAG KY had an effect on what my peers and I could accomplish through the non profit store, the retail thrift store, and by donations to the homeless shelter. While I did not realize my impact until recently, it was always there. I appreciate the opportunities my JAG program has given me and hope to continue to have an impact on my community. After all, together we can accomplish anything.