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“Every body persists in a state of rest or of uniform motion in a straight line, unless it is compelled to change that state by forces having an impact upon it.” Thus was stated by Sir Isaac Newton, known best for the apple incident that introduced his mind to the gravitational pull of the Earth. Not only does his quote apply to physics, but to the impact one imparts on their community - and, in turn, the world around them - through action. Whether they realize it or not, everyone impacts another and the planet, even from the smallest motion; potentially like going around a stone in your path from the right or left side, or smiling at a stranger. I, like so many others from around the world, impact my community through purposeful action.

Every summer, I get together with my mother's friends to bring together whole lunches for the homeless people of Detroit. Winter of last year, we all accompanied a Catholic church to feed and present warm clothes to the homeless. All of us, being unfamiliar with the church group, were humbled senseless from experiencing the closeness of the volunteers and those receiving. Every person had a name, a *story*, that every person knew and respected. Each were greeted by volunteers with a bear hug or firm handshake, and the newer people to swing by for food, clothing, and prayers were all treated in such a way that you would have assumed those to be jolly old friends, sharing stories. Every man, woman, and child that we assisted in Detroit thanked every individual immensely for the positive impact we bring about their lives,

explaining to us in detail how we have assisted them in the past and present, as well as their hopes for the future. Many people don't think of the homeless of the world to be equal to themselves, but associate the unfortunate people with mental barriers and constant begging - but they always fail to realize that we are all the same; featherless bipeds with a wish. A wish that one day we can solve our strifes, one day, somehow, becoming the best each of us can.

Yet another way I help my society is by cleaning up the outdoors. We have gone to clean Belle Isle, a botanical garden and park, last year. You were sorted into groups, most either raking leaves, picking up trash for sorting, or kayaking through the surrounding river to filter trash from the pristine waters below. I have improved trails by clearing paths at Island Lake State Park and Kensington Metropark, and on Earth Day each year my family fills trash bags with litter found throughout the neighborhood and local school.

People seem to believe that it takes a large gesture to improve the well-being of a planet and its inhabitants. In reality, any small bit of your time can change everything. As Anita Roddick said well, "If you think you are too small to have an impact, try going to bed with a mosquito in the room."