

The essence of an individual is made evident by his or her actions, and the work of their hands. It is through our actions that we define ourselves and announce to the world our thoughts, our beliefs, our values and our intentions. Popular belief dictates that our eyes are the windows to our soul, but I believe that it is our actions that truly reveal the condition of our soul.

What is the soul? "Soul" is a religious word, but it consists of our mind, from which we derive our judgments, our mentality, and the state of our heart. Our heart is the center of emotional, intellectual, and moral activity. It allows individuals to be conscious of the world and our experiences. It enables people to reason, and to feel, it is the faculty of consciousness, thought, and character. The soul is the mindset of an individual and the heart is the deeper version of the soul, from this we derive our character.

In order to become moral and ethical leaders it is imperative that individuals continue to grow and develop morally and ethically, in essence we must develop a character of integrity. By doing so we engage in virtue ethics which evaluates the morality of a person's character, which in turn is made visible through our actions. We should desire to do good, even when there is no audience present to praise our efforts. This is moral virtue, an acquired disposition exhibited in a person's habitual behavior. There for it should be second nature for us to do good. And what can be deemed more honorable or good than helping others.

I believe it is the responsibility of an individual to give back and be a positive contributing factor. Seeking to help others is a selfless and moral goal, which in the long run will create a stronger community and a compassionate and fervent individual.

As a first generation student I have had the privilege of growing up in home steeped in rich Ukrainian culture. Attending school allowed me to also learn to appreciate American history and the beauty of the United States. I count myself beyond blessed to be able to know two diverse and unique cultures, and this insight into two different communities allowed me to appreciate them both all the more. It has become my goal to serve both to the best of my ability. By supporting missionaries in Ukraine I am able to support my native culture, and keep in touch with my Slavic roots. While being an active youth member I have dedicated my free time to serving the community by being an active member in community events like the Charlotte Beach Outreach Event and Downtown Caroling and Evangelism. I have also reached beyond borders to also support missionary groups in India, Kenya and Haiti.

By being supportive and helpful I believe that I fulfill my moral obligations to help others, and will continue to remain zealous in my efforts.