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The Emerging Leadership Institute has given me the opportunity to learn new things about myself, my leadership style and about the community. The activities that were brought to us gave me tremendous insight and helped me to realize how much potential I had as a leader. I also learned how to get a project off the ground by myself. I feel that the leadership skills I have gained in this class will serve me well for the rest of my life.

The activity that stood out the most to me was definitely our group project. We volunteered at the Salvation Army for a day. I felt that volunteering here was a reminder of how lucky we are that we have food, shelter and an education. It was also a really terrific time of year to go because they are gearing up for the winter. One of our classmates, John Reese, is working on starting a new program there called the L.I.F.E. Shelter. I think it was wonderful that the entire class could be a part of the first stages of his endeavor. The staff and residents there seemed truly happy that we were there. During lunch, I talked to a resident and the fact that we were there made her day. We also worked on teamwork and delegation. We broke off into smaller groups; cleaning, cooking, yard work and clothes sorting. Because we each had specific jobs, I think we used all our energy to get the maximum amount of work done. At the end of the day, I felt really good about what I had accomplished personally and what the group had done.

This class has taught me self-awareness. Before this class, I had demonstrated leadership in groups in both high school and college. In many ways, I felt that I had a very good grasp of what leadership was. This class taught me that the leadership skills

that I had exercised in previous experiences were basic and some of them tended to be immature.

Before this class, I would take a project that I was working on, delegate jobs to people and then have a tendency to micro-manage. I would immediately start doing everything myself if I thought the people I had delegated to weren't doing things my way. This is not being a true leader because leaders should allow other people opportunities to grow and the chance to take the ball and run. It took this class to make me realize that without true leaders, I would never have had the opportunities in my life to do what I've done in various organizations. This self-awareness has truly helped me in all aspects of my life. I feel that what truly pointed out my weaknesses was all the personality quizzes we took in class and when I began working on my personal project. The personality tests always pointed out the areas in which I needed to grow. These tests were also consistently pointing in the same direction.

Because I have experienced this class, I feel that I will continue to try and work on my weak points as a leader. I will also try and volunteer more often. I will work hard to delegate more and let other people learn leadership qualities through experience. This might involve failure but I will do my best to never micro-manage again. I feel that the skills learned in this class have not only helped me realize my potential as a leader, but my potential in making the world a better place.