

### Scholarship Essay

As I walked through the broken allies, all I could see were makeshift tents, which were home to dozens of impoverished families. Being a Pakistani-American, I have lived in America for the past 17 years of my life. I have never experienced the impoverished, unsanitary, and challenging way of life that encompasses 210 million individuals. Unlike the lavish living that many have come to know, many in Pakistan cannot relate.

During my trip to Pakistan for three years, as we returned from the airport to the village, we passed by an unimaginable ally. In this one mile of land, thousands of old tents with trash surrounding them encompassed just some of the hundreds of impoverished people of the town. Just as we passed by, I quickly asked the cab driver, "Who provides for these individuals?" Suddenly, as if the cab driver was accustomed to this answering this question, he said, "No one."

After realizing that, a country that I call my home, has millions of people accustomed to living in poverty, and no one wants to do anything about it. I decided to make an effort to provide and help these people who have been neglected for so long.

In 2016, I decided to create a local help relief at my local masjid, Al-Quraish. With the help of my family and the community, I set up a community to help relief efforts by the name of Yasrab. In our first year of operation, we would collect donations during Friday prayers and go out into the community requesting for any amount of monetary or physical donation. During our initial year, we raised \$5,000 in donations and a truckload of clothes and toys. Using the contributions, we received, we quickly shipped off the clothes and toys to Pakistan, where my uncle helped with distribution to the local community. With the money we had collected, we decided to make a long-lasting impact on the lives of these individuals, so we decided to build community centers. With the \$5,000 and some of our own money, we rented a local complex in the village and set it up so that people could come here to receive free food, medical checkups, and education for the youth.

Through my experience of helping others and my immense passion for volunteering, Yasrab has become an organization of my love. Being the president of this organization for the past three years, I have developed a powerful desire for the humanitarianism and the collaborative efforts of generous human beings. These invaluable experiences have helped me become a prominent leader in my community. Additionally, it has helped me develop necessary skills to not only help others, but guide others as well. These experiences have made me realize

Saad Nadeem  
UH ID: 1860912

that you don't have to have money or popularity to be a leader, rather you need to have a passion and a goal of what you want to achieve in your community. Furthermore, I plan to continue and strive to make this effort in bringing change to Pakistan, a reality that sets new dawn over Pakistan.