

Perspective

By Zachary Weishar

During my time at City Year, I have come to notice an interesting duality in the work that I do. The scope of my position is simultaneously enormous and infinitesimal. Let me explain:

I serve long hours and work extremely hard to support my students. This in itself is very important. I believe that I positively affect the lives of 26 7th-grade students every day. At the same time, I always keep in mind that my work is meaningless without the efforts of countless others. I am one of a team at the Rogers Middle School, one of the out of 20 schools we serve in the Boston area, which is one city served by an organization that is working to affect the status quo surrounding education on a global scale. It may sound like I am but one small cog of an enormous machine with countless moving parts, separated from each other. However this is not the case at all.

I know that the well-being of the students I serve is profoundly important. In fact, it is the most important thing for me to consider at this moment in my life. Showing up to school in support of my team and my students is the first and best way that I can positively affect the world around me. So, although my work appears minute in the grand scheme of City Year's vast network of change agents, it is grand in its effect.

It is my hope that the lessons I share with students will inspire them, and perhaps they will go on to inspire others. These thousands of tiny ripples—positive ideas or acts—will come together and amplify their collective forces until they form a powerful tidal wave on a crash course with the status quo. In my mind, this is how large scale change occurs.

Ultimately, in my mission create positive change, I take comfort knowing that I am not alone. I receive support from every other corps member and staff member serving within City Year's vast network. I am indeed one part of this enormous machine that is City Year, but my service is not small, and I am as vital to that machine's well-being as all the other powerful components.

We are strong. We are all connected. We are in this together.