

Justice is Blind – We Cannot Be

A mother who does not know where her children will sleep tonight.

A young boy thinking about where his next meal will come from.

An immigrant family shunned by their neighbors and judged by their race, religion, and color of their skin.

You might be thinking – maybe this happens abroad, or in some distant town or city. The truth is, food insecurity, homelessness, and hate crimes happen right here in Orange County.

Instances of injustice often go unseen, especially in affluent communities like ours. It's often said that justice is blind, but we cannot be blind to instances of injustice.

Consider this: Nearly 7,000 people in our county walk the streets homeless... every day.

One in six children is at risk of hunger... every day.

More than 200 hate crimes were reported in Orange County in 2018 alone. That's nearly one attack per day.

Each of us has a responsibility to meaningfully contribute to the lives of others. We cannot expect fairness, integrity, and equality to naturally sustain themselves – these foundational pillars of justice must be deliberately cultivated through an awareness of those in need and a commitment to philanthropic initiatives that help them.

I am passionate about promoting justice within education and increasing opportunities for students who do not have the same resources that I do. When I learned that only 22% of students

from a local elementary school met state-wide proficiency standards, I could not stand idly by knowing that this inequity existed.

For the past two years, I have been offering free tutoring in reading comprehension and math at the San Juan Capistrano Public Library. To have a greater impact, I am organizing “Number Ninjas,” a summer camp for underserved elementary students that integrates math and sports. My goal is to close the achievement gap within the county by creating an interactive curriculum that extends education beyond the classroom.

As I seek to promote justice in Orange County, I am guided by the words of philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson who said, “*Helping one person might not change the world, but it could change the world for one person.*” Guided by morals, fueled by conscience, and committed to giving of myself for others, I aim to balance the scales of justice.

We are all stakeholders in this cause, and justice for one translates to justice for all.