Living in a war-free, advanced country and being raised in a wealthy family, I used to be a self-centered person and only live in my own universe. I didn’t get the point of serving others as I took everything for granted and deemed the society as a flawless and perfectly progressed world. However, after entering high school, I perceived there were a number of students who had been devoted to volunteer services and had attained great happiness and sense of achievement from it. They always told me, in a firm voice, that the smiles on their faces and their optimistic attitude were the best testament to the joy services had brought to them. Consequently, if given the chance, I would sign up for the “Service Winter Camp” in the winter vacation this year. Never could I predict that it would thoroughly change my life and my attitude to volunteer services.

Upon arriving Yang-Ming Mountain, we would be instantly divided into groups and informed of the theme and people we are going to serve—twenty two visually disabled children. Anxiety and nervousness would fill my vein, as I think to myself, “How could I serve the blind since I have never met one?” Yet, having to start from scratch, we would quickly spring into action to learn how to get along with the blind children and prepare for the program. Time being limited, we would be obliged to cooperate mutually to live up the high standard of our strict mentor. In the three-day preparation, any friction could trigger quarrels between our team mates as everyone is lack of sleep and suffering from the tremendous pressure exerted on us. Nevertheless, we would strive to work efficiently and create a perfect camp as hard as we could and I believe we could do it.

On the day of the camp, well-prepared, everyone would brace himself up to welcome our dear little guest. As the children descending from the bus, all of us would be bound to burst into cheers while singing a welcome song to them. Afterwards, our plans would begin. In the morning, we would present performances, including reader theater, songs and dances. Watching them enjoying in the stories and music, our hearts would be leaping with joy and it would spur us to put on more efforts. In the afternoon, I would be the tour guide of a nature tour responsible for introducing the environment of Yan-Ming Mountain and plants around. It would be literally a touching moment when I took their little hands and touched the shapes of different kinds of leaves; when I see their splendid smiles when they savored the fragrance of the flowers. It would be sure to strike me that they were same as we were in spite of their disability. Yet, they would be extraordinary in a more specific way—the way they treated the world with optimism and the way they coped with their detects with bright confidence. The tears in my eyes would gradually blur the magnificent scenery of the blooming cherry blossoms. I felt ashamed because I obsessed sight whereas I lacked of insight, not in the way the blind children did. I found out that I was the person who was blind to see the world in a beautiful perspective. Touchingly, I would hug the children and bid them goodbyes as they moved onto the next game.

In the end, I could finally come to the realization of the true purpose of service learning. This experience would not only show me the needs of different people in the world, but it would teach me to empathize and be sensitive of others’ feelings. Most important of all, I would start to cherish what I owned rather than dwell on the things I didn’t have. Learning to be grateful, I was led to a wholly different world. And then, I could begin to love, and dare to care about others.

In conclusion, this would be the volunteer service I wished myself to do in this winter vacation
and, undoubtedly, it would significantly change my life. I once heard a beautiful quote which said, “If you dedicated your time to the others, then you are giving them a part of your life as a present.” I was strongly convinced that through volunteer service, we could make the world a better place and contribute to the others. I hoped I could fulfill my goal and go as far as volunteer service would take me.