

Ladies and gentlemen,

My name is Marita Asamoah, I'm a freshman in an hbcu, and today I will be sharing a glimpse into my transformative journey through community service at the Franciscan Center in Baltimore. And today I will be sharing my experience about the 50th anniversary of Hiphop.

Entering the doors of the Franciscan Center, I was greeted by a vibrant energy from other individuals from all walks of life, each with their own story, their own struggles, and their own dreams. It was here, in the heart of Baltimore, that I discovered the true essence of service and compassion.

Every interaction, every shared meal, and every conversation became a testament to the power of human connection.

But beyond the surface level of our interactions lay a deeper truth - a truth that transcended socio-economic barriers and united us in our shared humanity. It was in the eyes of those we served that I found both humility and inspiration. Their resilience in the face of adversity, their unwavering hope amidst despair, illuminated the path towards a more compassionate and just society.

Through my experiences at the Franciscan Center, I learned that true service extends far beyond the confines of a single act. It is a commitment to empathy, to understanding, and to standing in solidarity with those who have been marginalized by society.

As I reflect on my time spent at the Franciscan Center, I am reminded of the words of Saint Francis of Assisi: "For it is in giving that we receive." In giving of ourselves, we not only uplift those around us but also find fulfillment and purpose in our own lives.

The Franciscan Center has not only been a place of service but a beacon of hope in the heart of Baltimore. It has taught me that no act of kindness is too small, no gesture of

compassion too insignificant. For in the tapestry of humanity, it is our collective acts of love and service that weave the fabric of a more compassionate world.

As I continue on my journey, I carry with me the lessons learned and the connections forged at the Franciscan Center. May we all be inspired to serve, to uplift, and to be the change we wish to see in the world.

Thank you.