

WE CAN ALL DO OUR PART TO CHANGE THINGS

Centraide donor Lyria was involved with Centraide's Loaned Representatives Program in 2018. In this role, she learned about dozens of community agencies. ♦

"My employer loaned me to Centraide for four months during its 2018 campaign. As a Loaned Representative, I helped companies organize employee workplace campaigns. I learned about dozens of community agencies that came to talk about their experiences in the field.



For example, I just met a street outreach worker named Brenda. What she told me about her work with youth helped me understand the impact of my donation. It made me so happy to learn that my donation makes that kind of difference. We can't all be social workers, but we can all do our part to change things. When I make a donation, I know it will lead to action and that this action will do good and change someone's life. Being part of this big chain of generosity gives me such an immense feeling of joy.

With Centraide, I have learned that the people helped by Centraide agencies—or those we see simply as "others"—include me too. For example, that person could be me in the future, or my neighbour, my cousins, or my future children. By helping others, you may be helping yourself one day.

I grew up in a family that deeply valued giving to others. I remember when we lived in Burundi during the war and how my parents took in ten complete strangers. We put mattresses on the floor and gave them food. A feeling starting growing in me then. I now have this constant sense of generosity that makes me feel alive. This feeling should be the reason for our existence. At the end of the day, it gives me such joy to say, "Today, I helped someone!"

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I have a friend who said to me once, "It's a good thing that there are poor people to help other poor people." What he meant was that often the richer you are, the less you give. What he said really struck me, and it helps me stay on the right path and even give more. It made me hate that there is always someone, somewhere, with fewer means than I do who gives whatever they can."

- Lyria



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