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What does it mean to be a light to your community? To me, being a light is contributing whatever positive and purposeful attribute you can to society, or in this case, a community or sisterhood. Each person has their strengths and is capable of fantastic things, and the pursuit of your strengths and your excellence with the intention of growing a community is being a light. Self-discovery within the realm of a purpose-driven life is taking time to develop yourself and contribute something positive to the world, rather than just taking what you need. You don't need to be brilliant, or the best, or anything except who you are; each person holds the potential to be a light—to add to their community in a beneficial way.

I am a light in my community through my community service. Ever since I was a child, I have been passionate about giving back any way I can. I had my first experience at 8 years old when I went on a mission trip to Mexico with my church to build a house for underprivileged families. This began my love for community service, as I spent three more summers going on mission trips to Mexico. I wanted to contribute not just to another community, but my own, so I started participating in Habitat for Humanity and volunteering in the kitchen at my Christian summer camp. I loved giving back and helping a community that was just as generous to me.

I am now a member of Tri Sigma, an amazing sorority where community service is highly valued and at the heart of our mission statement. During my time as a member, I have created cards for children struggling with illnesses in the hospital, been pied in the face to raise money, donated cans, and participated in many other philanthropic events. I am so blessed to be a member of such a generous and welcoming sorority, and I have tried to give back to my community—or be a light—in as many ways possible. Community service is a strength and a hobby of mine; giving back and helping my community is incredibly rewarding and something I look forward to every semester.

As I mentioned earlier, being a light to your community is about giving back what you can and striving to improve yourself so you can lift others up as well. I believe I do this through acts of community service. I believe I improve my sorority, my college campus, and my city by helping people in need and the community as a whole. While I don't have the means to donate large amounts of money, I can donate my time and I think that makes a real difference. I can't change the world by myself, but I can get up every day and choose to be a light and choose to contribute positivity into the world. If we all make that choice every day, every community will be better for it.