



## **300 in 10 for TASK**

By Dhruvi Raghuraman

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The first time I really began to understand the detrimental ways the COVID-19 pandemic was affecting Americans was in mid-March. I realized that even in my community, not just in the big, wide world, there was an increase in the unemployment rate and a rise in food insecurity. I felt strange, knowing that my family and many others could afford to stock their pantries to prepare for quarantine while others could not.

So, I began a fundraiser for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK) with a goal of raising \$300 in 10 days. I reached out to my friends and posted my goal on social media. To motivate people to donate, I created a blog where I posted daily. Each post was something different, whether it be pictures of my sketches, a video of my sister and I singing, or even a write-up of a funny moment from my day. I wanted to create this blog to show that we are all in this together and show how one high schooler is handling this quarantine.

[My blog entry the first day of the fundraiser](#) – dated March 21, 2020:

“A week ago I learned about the effects of the coronavirus pandemic on the average American. This pandemic is not only a health threat, but has negatively impacted jobs, economy, financial position, and mental well-being.

I realized just how fortunate I am, and want to help whoever I can.

Join me in raising money for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK)

To donate please visit: <https://300in10task.blogspot.com/>

Your contributions will make an impact, whether you donate \$5 or \$500. Every little bit helps.

I've included information about TASK below.

My goal is to raise \$300 in 10 days and continue on to raise money towards TASK so they can better support the Trenton area.

TASK is a charitable, non-profit organization whose mission is to respond to the needs of the people in the Trenton area by:

- 1) providing meals to all those who are hungry
- 2) providing services to encourage self-sufficiency and improve the quality of life
- 3) informing the wider community of the needs of the hungry
- 4) advocating for resources to meet these needs

Check out this blog every day! I'll be posting wacky moments from my day 😊

In times of crisis, we must all take responsibility in helping out our community.

I am doing my part. Will you join me?”

In these 10 days, I learned so much about community and coming together. There were many days where I lost motivation, thinking that one person could not really make a difference. But I

was so wrong! I realized that I was not actually doing this alone. I was simply the one who started the fundraiser, everyone who donated was there supporting and promoting the cause.

On day 10 (March 30), I wrote:

“The past 10 days have been amazing.

On day 1, I was scared to put myself out there, scared someone might judge me for passionately voicing my concerns for the community. Around day 3 or 4 I struggled with deciding what to include for my daily post.

Now, at the finish line, I am in awe of my community.

I started this blog with the goal of raising \$300 in 10 days for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen. I am ecstatic to share that we have collected \$710 to donate!!

And when I say community, I am not just talking about the Trenton area. My community extends from the Princeton area to Pennsylvania, Boston, Kentucky, Texas, Toronto, California, and India. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

I am feeling incredibly grateful to be surrounded by such supportive and giving people.

Through this, I have learnt what "a little can go a long way" really means. I didn't think I would be able to make much of a difference, but I have learned that starting something is the hardest part! From there, there will always be a surplus of encouragement and love. In this case it was either through commenting on each post, spreading my mission to others, or directly donating a contribution.

Thank you.

With love,

Dhruti ”

I am so glad I had the opportunity to create this fundraiser and support my community because I have learned the importance of community and leadership. Please feel free to look at my blog, the link is: <https://300in10task.blogspot.com/>

