Gerardo Palma’s Story

Gerardo Palma first got involved with Corazon during his sophomore year in High School in 2014. Wanting to gain volunteer experience, Gerardo was able to get involved in our Leadership programs.

Gerardo was first introduced to the Health Ambassador program, where he volunteered as a peer educator on health related subjects, participated in workshops and assisted in summer camp’s for young children in the community. Gerardo was also able to help implement Health Fairs for the community and educate others about Lupus in Cicero. He was able to be an opinion leader amongst his peers during his time with the program and developed as a young man.

Gerardo was also able to take part in the Stay In School program for four years. He was able to network with youth leaders from different communities and backgrounds. Gerardo was also able to make life-long connections with professionals, which encouraged him to pursue his career goals today. The Stay In School program gave Gerardo an opportunity to have two summer paid-internships with Exelon/Com-Ed. The internships were impactful and provided direction for his future goals. The program works with high school youth, that participate in monthly workshops with a focus on team building, skill building, networking and personal strength recognition.

“I joined because I wanted to do some volunteering throughout my community while gaining different experiences. While this is what I initially expected, looking back at my experiences with Corazon, I can see that I got way more than I expected…I was able to network with incredible people and learn different skills through my time with Corazon.”

Gerardo Palma graduated form Morton East High School in 2017, and is currently a Freshman at Morton College. He is currently taking his basic’s before he transfers to a University of his choice. Gerardo is still unsure about his area of interest, but looking to possibly study something in Medicine or Technology.