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Runner for Christ

BY ASHLEIGH JARDINE

My Father will honor the one who serves me. —John 12:26 NIV

At a young age, Rudy Maltez learned the importance of serving others. The Andrews University student played piano for his church and was involved in the Pathfinder youth program growing up. He even went on two short-term mission trips as a grade-schooler. A year after the 9/11 attacks, Rudy went to New York City to do street ministries and pray with the people his youth group met. He also went to the Bahamas with his eighth-grade classmates to aid the American Red Cross and fix houses.



Rudy Maltez

As he grew older, Rudy claims that helping others “became something I really wanted to do.” When he came to Andrews in 2012, it was only a matter of time until he found ministries of which to be a part; one of his favorites was the Salvation Army Clinic, a free clinic. “I heard really good things about free clinic, and went for my first time not knowing what to expect. I liked it from the beginning, and went for two years,” he says.

The free clinic (aka Herbie Health Clinic) is a monthly health clinic offered to the uninsured in Benton Harbor, Michigan. It provides medical treatment and medicine to those who need it most. Volunteers can do one of several jobs at the site, and Rudy enjoyed being a “runner” most weekends.

Runners have the privilege of being with a patient during their entire stay, starting from the moment they check in. Rudy had fun getting to know the patients and being someone they could talk to and trust. Sometimes, he prayed with his patients if they were upset or hurting.

“I saw it as a chance to offer them hope,” says Rudy. “It was so rewarding because I realized you don’t have to be a doctor or have a lot of skills in medicine to make a difference in someone’s life when they’re sick.”

Besides the free clinic, Rudy also spends his time at Andrews doing a bilingual kids ministry in the summers. He also serves as a class pastor, and often prepares worship for his classmates.

Rudy plans to be involved in church activities wherever he ends up, and to influence others to use their spiritual gifts.

Ashleigh Jardine is a freelance writer from Berrien Springs, Michigan, where she is majoring in physical therapy at Andrews University.

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