

To: ROB Dundee FAX 452-1718

From: John Upton

Subject: Anthony Cummings letter for website

Hello,

I am writing to extend my appreciation for your contribution you made for my trip to Nigeria Africa. My experience was truly once in a life time. I met beautiful people, learned about the country and culture, and took part in both the 3rd Annual West African Project Fair and National Immunization Days for Polio. The first day of my trip I was able to go to a museum where I was still in culture shock. The people, land, and atmosphere is something you could never dream of. I then went into a craft village to do some shopping and see how the people there make a living. It was very interesting walking from hut to hut to shop and bargaining with the craftsmen. Since we were hosted by the Rotarians of Nigeria, they split us into separate groups and took us to different schools in the rural areas. On the way we traveled down a long bumpy dirt road for quite a while. Along the way I saw Muslim school children learning in a hut and writing in the dirt with sticks. It was very emotional to actually see this in person, but also inspiring to see how they learn and to see how happy they were. I then went further to a school which was remodeled by a Rotary club. All the kids came running and were so happy to have visitors. When I stepped out of the van I had tons of kids around me. They loved having their picture taken and looking at it on the LCD screen, because they had never seen a digital camera before. I have never seen so many kids laughing in my life; they were so thrilled. The school was called Kobi Primary school, and was right near the village where the kids lived, so I was able to see the villages as well. I passed out markers and crayons at this school, which was taken with great appreciation. When I showed them the markers they all started clapping and jumping around. I stayed in one class for a while and taught the teacher to take a picture, which she absolutely loved. The children were so welcoming and happy to have me in their class. Next, I went into a village where I joined a Micro - Credit ceremony. We were taken into the Chief's Palace, and sat on the floor with twenty native women and their families. We then loaned each of the women one hundred dollars to start a business and pay back the loan in a year. By doing this, it gives the women a chance to make a living and gives them a responsibility to fallow through with. Many of the women we loaned money to are going to start a farming business or make crafts to sell. The women were so happy and expressed that this was the first time in their lives they have been given an opportunity to make their life, children's education and health better. The next two days I took part in a project fair where Rotary clubs from all over Nigeria came to set up booths. Each booth was to inform us about different issues they have in their villages. Many of the problems were of course not having sanitary water, lack of school supplies and facilities. There were booths that informed us about the need of hospitals and medical supplies also. It was so sad to see pictures of the current schools, hospitals, dirty rivers and lack of things most people in other countries take for granted like a bed cot or even a scale. The Rotarians at the booths proposed projects to rebuild schools, hospitals and to put in Bore Hole water wells which go all the way down into the ground where the water is filtered and clean. There were also booths to promote grants towards AIDS/HIV education. After the project fair, we started our immunization days. We woke up at five in the morning to drive two hours into the village of Garam. I was trained and grouped with six nurses that lived in the actual village. We walked miles going house to house in the village. This was my favorite part of my trip. I was able to see true village life; people fetching water, cooking on fire, little kids working, and also saw how the family life was. When we got to each house, we would greet them in their

language, and ask for all the kids. Then we would give them the polio drops and mark their pinky with a purple dye. After, it was our responsibility to mark each house with chalk and to tally the children immunized on a paper. All the children were so fun to be around and it was very fulfilling to give the immunizations. I even got to immunize a baby that was less than a day old. I visited and immunized in a Fulani Village, where they are known for farming. They lived in dome structures made out of branches. We walked for miles each day going house to house, which never got old! I was so amazed by their culture, and was lucky enough to be taught how to mash yams with a long wooden mallet from a young woman. By the end of the immunizing I grew much attached to all the people, especially the children. One eight year old girl, who I had the chance to play with and talk with became a close friend of mine. She told me that she would become a pilot one day and loved playing with my hair. Before I left she gave me a beautiful embroidered white scarf so I would remember her, and gave me the biggest kiss on the cheek. I told her that I would never forget her, and I definitely won't. When I left the village where she lived, I was extremely sad, but I felt like my goal was completely accomplished. Our rotary group also shared many great dinners with live music and tribal dancing. On my last day, I was able to get my hair done in a native style. The woman who did it took my hair and made hundreds of little twists. It took four hours, but was completely worth it to go home with. My trip was every thing and more I could have asked for, and could not have been made possible without your help. My plans for the future are to one day go back to Nigeria or even another country after college, and help with different service projects. Thank you again for your help and I wish you the best for 2008!

Sincerely,

Brittney D. Cummings

Brittney D. Cummings

I want to say thank you for how much your club has shaped my future in a brighter way. Without RYLA, and now this trip to Africa my knowledge, dreams and persistence would be so different. Thank you j

- I look forward to presenting to your club and am also interested in applying for any Scholarships you offer highschool grads!

AUTOMATIC COVER SHEET

DATE : JAN-17-08 02:46 PM

TO :

FAX #: 4521718

FROM : JOHN E UPTON

FAX #: 530 5410525

3 PAGES WERE SENT

(INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET)