



2012 CALENDAR & 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

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**Mission**

Amizade empowers individuals and communities through worldwide service and learning.

Vision

To create an equitable world where all people can connect freely and forge lasting friendships.

www.amizade.org | servicelearning@amizade.org | facebook.com/amizadeGSL

Dear Friends,

2011 has been a watershed year for Amizade. We placed over 500 volunteers in 9 countries – our most ever. We served in our partner sites for over 25,000 hours – our most ever. We surpassed \$800,000 in annual income – our most ever. We worked with students from over 50 different universities – our most ever. Our staff grew, our logo and website modernized, our projects improved, our global advocacy spread, and our strategic plan was completed. And, if all this wasn't enough for a great year, in April, we moved into newer and hipper Downtown Pittsburgh offices.

As we look forward to 2012, Amizade is poised for even bigger changes. For the first time in 8 years, we are proud to announce that we will be expanding to two new countries: India and Trinidad and Tobago. In Trinidad, Amizade will be partnering with the small fishing community of Matelot, working to tackle a range of environmental issues. In India, Amizade will be working on leadership development in the southern Tamil Nadu region. Both partnerships will be wonderful opportunities for volunteers to engage in important community-driven service.

Beginning in 2012, Amizade will also be rolling out our newest innovation, Fair Trade Learning. Fair Trade Learning will give a stronger voice, better professional development opportunities, and more transformative learning experiences to our friends in the communities that we serve. Fair Trade Learning will also recognize that the flow of knowledge and service doesn't have to be a one-way stream, and will transform the classroom into a mutually empowering engine of social change.

This report is a celebration of the past year and an exciting look into the future. It shows just how far we have come in the last 17 years, and how much more we'll accomplish in the next 17. We'd like to invite you to display this calendar, and as each month passes, read the stories from our partners, alumni, faculty, and staff about each of our sites. Thank you so much for your continued support and we look forward to serving with you in the future.

Warmly,

Brandon Blache-Cohen
Executive Director

Chad Martin
Board Chair

Accomplishments

In 2011 Amizade connected over 500 volunteers—the largest number of volunteers in a single year in our history—with communities in our sites around the world. Together with our community partners, volunteers have accomplished the following:

- Brought Internet access to a library in Ghana
- Tutored children in the Navajo Nation, Bolivia, and Mexico
- Taught computer classes in Jamaica
- Served in clinics in the Amazon, Ghana, and Tanzania
- Aided disabled and handicapped children in Bolivia
- Hosted 3 successful Water Walks in Pennsylvania and West Virginia
- Served with Hopi and Navajo seniors in the Navajo Nation
- Learned from the homeless community in Washington, DC
- Worked on sand dune conservation in Mexico
- Ran an at-risk youth camp in Jamaica
- Constructed water tanks in rural Tanzania
- Helped maintain and restore artifacts at Auschwitz

...and so much more

We are thrilled to be connecting volunteers to two new sites in 2012, Tamil Nadu, India and Matelot, Trinidad and Tobago. We look forward to the exciting and inspiring work that will come out of these new partnerships!

Amizade volunteers are making a difference around the world, and having their lives transformed in the process.

Fair Trade Learning

Amizade is gearing up to change the way Americans serve abroad. Recently, Amizade began implementing what we call *Fair Trade Learning*. Modeled after our partnership in Jamaica, *Fair Trade Learning* recognizes that the individuals and communities that host students and volunteers are uniquely impacted by visitors and should be offered fair working conditions and compensation, hold significant voice in the orchestration of programming, and be offered proper professional development opportunities.

Amizade will be enacting a *Fair Trade Learning* model of study and volunteering abroad by:

- Engaging only in community-driven development, in which community leaders and organizations help decide the terms of foreign student projects in their communities;
- Encouraging and opening its classes for local students to audit, free of charge;
- Offering fair compensation to all of those who make study and volunteer abroad programs possible, including guides, drivers, homestay families, cooks, and community organizations; and
- Working to offer partially or fully subsidized opportunities for individuals in our communities abroad to engage in service-learning programs in the United States.

By facilitating a free flow of service and learning across borders, Amizade will be able to truly empower individuals and communities, transforming even more lives through intercultural immersion, understanding, and learning.

How YOU Can Make a Difference with Amizade

- *Organize a faculty-led service-learning program.* As a faculty member you can enhance your traditional teaching through community-driven service-learning. Amizade can help you organize a custom program to fit your personal, departmental, and university needs.
- *Arrange a group volunteer program.* Form a group of 6 or more individuals from your school, community organization, or family. Every year, Amizade works with a diverse set of faith organizations, families, colleges, and other groups.
- *Join an open group volunteer program.* In 2012 Amizade is offering more than a dozen open group volunteer programs in locations around the world. Open group programs are a great way to make a difference and meet incredible people.
- *Volunteer as an individual.* Amizade has individual volunteer placement opportunities in Bolivia, Brazil, Ghana, Jamaica, the Navajo Nation, and Tanzania.
- *Participate in a service-learning course.* Service-learning courses are an exciting and challenging way to learn about current social issues affecting Amizade partner communities and others around the world. While learning outside of the classroom, service-learning students also have the opportunity to make a difference.

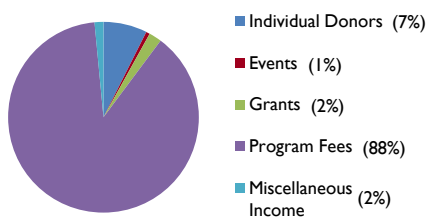
To learn more about these and other Amizade opportunities, visit www.amizade.org or call 412-586-4986.



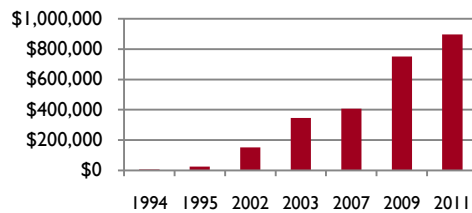
2010-2011 Financials

Summarized statement of activities, fiscal year September 1, 2010 to August 31, 2011

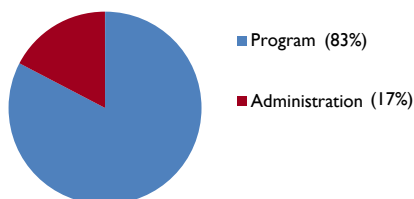
Income: \$897,832



Total Income



Expense: \$743,947



Fundraising Expenses

0.1%

Of Total Expenses

The 90/10 Model

Amizade operates as a typical charity only 10% of the time, rarely relying on donors and grants. The other 90% of our work functions as a social business. This model has proven its effectiveness as a sustainable way to impact communities and grow the organization at the same time.

About 90% of Amizade's annual funds are generated through program fees. These funds are then invested into future programs, outreach, and leveraged in a way that supplies the communities where we work with material donations. Unlike a typical charity, our service-learning model recycles and reinvests money to ensure that goals are met and programs are sustainable.

Through the 90/10 model, we have created an important space for Amizade staff to concentrate on implementing programs rather than focusing on typical nonprofit fundraising concerns. That said, unrestricted and project-specific donations are still vitally important.

In fact, Amizade has found that because of our ability to grow unrestricted donor funds by investing them into volunteer outreach, we leverage every unrestricted dollar raised by 33%. This means that a small investment in Amizade can make an enormous difference.



"MORE THAN A DECADE AFTER I MADE MY FIRST TRIP, I WAS BACK IN SANTARÉM, TEACHING A NEW GENERATION OF STUDENTS EAGER TO STRETCH THEIR MINDS AND HEARTS."



SANTARÉM, BRAZIL

Jeremy Campbell: Faculty

I first learned of Amizade Global Service-Learning in 1999, as a sophomore at Davidson College. I knew as I signed up for a summer in the Amazon that I would be challenged with a new language and culture, but also pushed to examine the limits of my understanding of the world and my ability to act within it with purpose and conviction. Nestled in the largest tropical rainforest on earth, what struck me the most was the warmth of the people of Santarém, and the sociocultural and economic diversity present in the midst of all the famous biodiversity. It was the people of Santarém that left the greatest impression on me.

Since that summer in 2000, I have been back to Santarém many times. Now, as a Professor of Anthropology, I have more questions about the past, present, and future of the Amazon. I strive to inspire my students to answer these questions, and I know of no better partner to stimulate reflection on the interface of global politics and local actions than Amizade. In January 2011, I led my own group of college students into the Amazon to broaden their horizons, discover their own character, and make lasting personal connections. More than a decade after I made my first trip, I was back in Santarém with a new generation of students eager to stretch their minds and hearts. Amizade makes this kind of deep, purposeful, and potentially life-changing learning possible. After all these years, I find myself challenged and engaged, still learning and growing, alongside new students and lifelong friends in Brazil.

JANUARY



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"IT WAS AT THIS MOMENT THAT WE KNEW WE WERE SITTING ON HISTORY'S DOORSTEP"



NORTHERN IRELAND

Anthony Scaletta: Program Facilitator

During the summer of 2010 I served as a program facilitator in Northern Ireland. While the conflict in Northern Ireland is all but over today, the legacy of conflict still looms large. We were invited to learn from those who are moving through this legacy of struggle and building a community of lasting peace. As Amizade participants probing the complexities of global citizenship, we were uniquely positioned to serve and honor this community by bringing home the new found insights and stories of hope that permeated our experience.

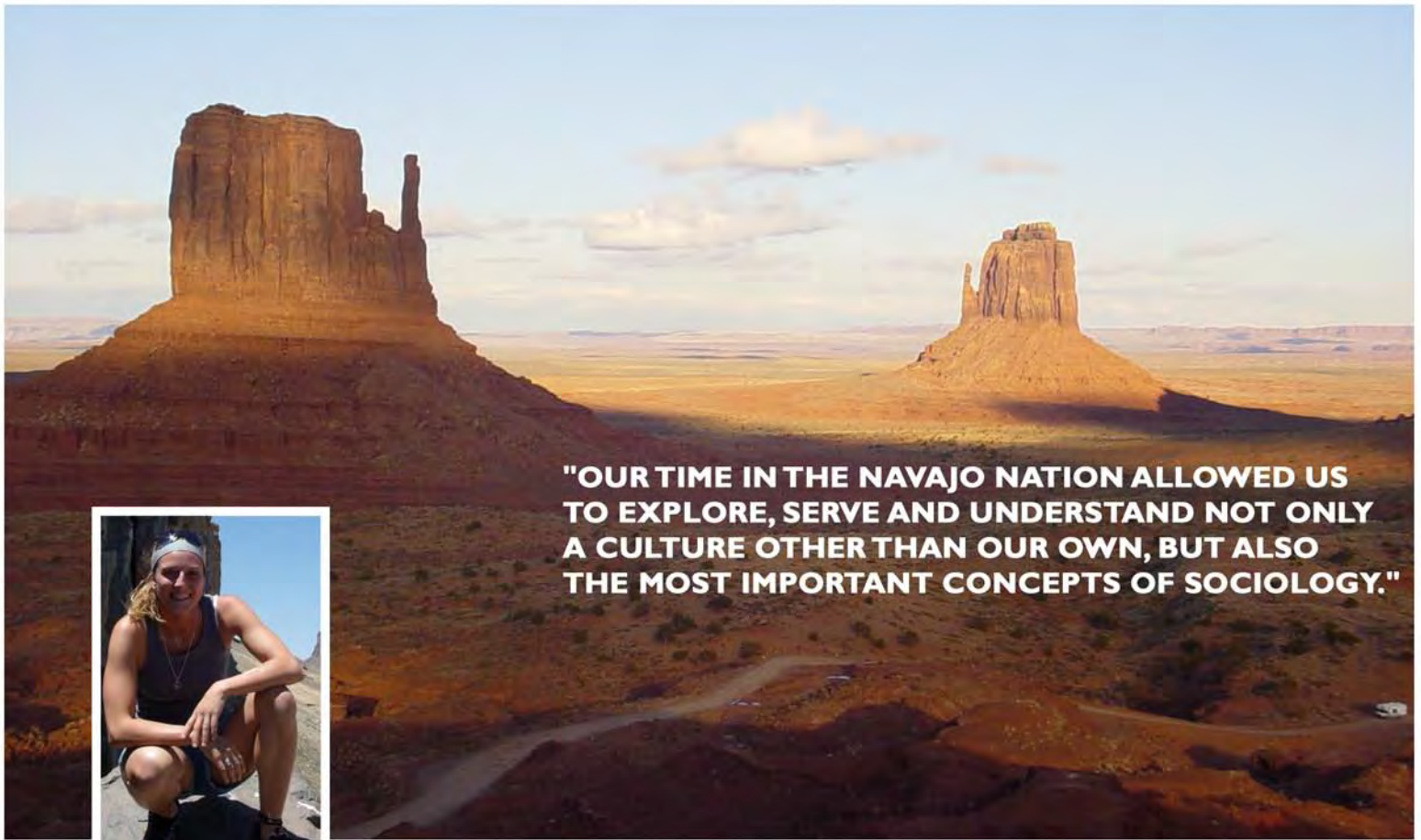
In accordance with Amizade's "living classroom" approach to learning, we took the opportunity to witness history and learn about the Bloody Sunday massacre by participating in a reenactment of the January 30, 1972 civil rights march. On June 15, 2010, nearly four decades after the original march, the community gathered in the streets of Londonderry/Derry to rally in support of the findings of the newly released Saville Report. The march ended peacefully in Guildhall Square, where British Prime Minister David Cameron revealed the report's findings, proclaiming the innocence of the 13 slain civil rights protestors, concluding that the killings carried out by British soldiers were unjustifiable.

The significance of the event pulsed through the crowd and poured over the Amizade participants; it was at this moment that we knew we were sitting on history's doorstep, transformed by the experience and acutely aware of our future obligations to share the story.

FEBRUARY



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"OUR TIME IN THE NAVAJO NATION ALLOWED US TO EXPLORE, SERVE AND UNDERSTAND NOT ONLY A CULTURE OTHER THAN OUR OWN, BUT ALSO THE MOST IMPORTANT CONCEPTS OF SOCIOLOGY."



NAVAJO NATION

Lindsay Kahle: Student

The theme of our trip to Crownpoint, New Mexico revolved around three simple words: Explore. Serve. Understand. From the time we arrived until weeks after we came home I continued to learn what these words really meant. As students, every day we explore knowledge; every day we serve ourselves and the world around us by striving to increase such knowledge; every day we gain a new level of understanding about things we do not know or understand. But, every day we do not get to feel these concepts in their rawest forms, experiencing the value of their truest meaning. Our time in the Navajo Nation allowed us to explore, serve and understand not only a culture other than our own, but also the most important concepts of sociology.

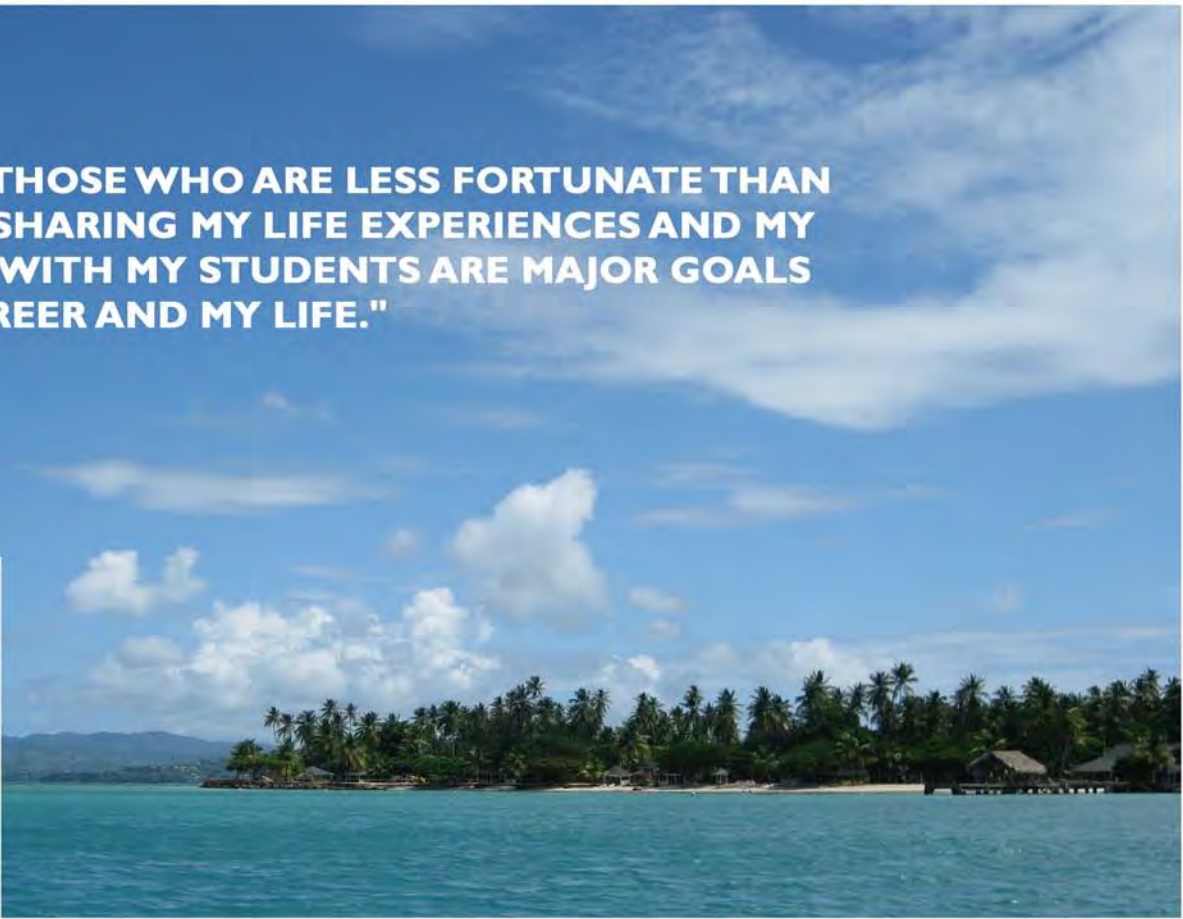
In Crownpoint we had many opportunities to serve. However, the service goal of this trip focused more on teaching us the lessons and stories of the culture to bring back to our own communities. We had classes both in a traditional classroom setting, listening to speakers from the local college and community, and outside at some of the greatest pieces of cultural history of the Navajo Nation. This allowed for total cultural immersion and offered understanding that no classroom could have provided. To witness the rich cultural capital that we have seen in our classrooms was beyond anything I could have imagined. This service-learning experience left its mark on me both personally and academically. It's something that everyone should have the chance to experience at least once in their lifetime.

MARCH



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"SERVING THOSE WHO ARE LESS FORTUNATE THAN I AM, AND SHARING MY LIFE EXPERIENCES AND MY COUNTRY WITH MY STUDENTS ARE MAJOR GOALS OF MY CAREER AND MY LIFE."



TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Marlon Knights: Faculty

Serving those who are less fortunate than I am, and sharing my life experiences and my country with my students are major goals of my career and my life. Through Amizade I can achieve both goals. I was fascinated by what I heard, and intrigued about the possibility of developing an Amizade experience in my home country of Trinidad and Tobago. Trinidad and Tobago is very diverse in their people and their history, music, food, culture and economy. This makes it a wonderful place to visit, live and learn.

The rural coastal village of Matelot, located along the North coast of Trinidad, is a small agriculture and fishing village. The people of Matelot have a long and vibrant history from native Amerindians to Venezuelan migrants and African and Indian descendants. The opportunities to learn while serving the people of Matelot in their development efforts are multi-faceted, from protection of the coastline and conserving the leatherback turtle to assisting in the development of hiking trails and in the maintenance and development of the banks of some of the best rivers in Trinidad. A visit to Trinidad and Tobago would not be complete without visits to the world famous pitch-lake, the Castles around the Queen's Park Savannah, and the Caroni Bird Sanctuary. Recently discovered waterfalls and uninhabited beaches also await the students. Tobago is also home to the famous Nylon Pool and Buccoo Reef and a rich and unique blend of people, foods, and festivals.

APRIL



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"MY VISIT TO THE US IS ONE OF THOSE MOMENTS IN LIFE THAT I WILL CHERISH DEEP WITHIN MY HEART."



WASHINGTON, DC

Prasen Man Shakya:
High School Student

My visit to the US is one of those moments in life that I will never forget and shall cherish deep within my heart. I, along with 8 delegates from Nepal, visited the US for the South Asia Youth Summit sponsored by the US State Department and coordinated by Magee Womenscare International and Amizade. The summit also included delegates from the Maldives and Sri Lanka, with whom we became great friends.

During our month long stay in the US, we stayed in Pittsburgh for 3 weeks and spent a week in Washington, DC. DC was very interesting as it provided us with various opportunities, both fun and knowledgeable. One of the most touching experiences for me was the visit to the Father McKenna Center, a drop-in center and shelter for homeless men. We participated in a discussion with the staff and two guests at the Center. The guests shared their experiences and challenges as homeless men and how they became homeless and how the Center was guiding them towards independence. I was deeply touched by their experiences and it made me reflect on my life. After the seminar we prepared and shared a meal for everyone at the Center.

I thank Amizade, Magee Womenscare International and US State Department for the wonderful opportunity they provided us. I can only hope that they will conduct more such summits so that more youth around the world can learn and help their own communities.

MAY



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"I KNEW, INTELLECTUALLY, OF THE HORRORS THAT HAD OCCURED AT AUSHWITZ AND BIRKENAU. TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE AT THE SITES WAS DEEPLY MOVING."



OSWIECIM, POLAND

Tom Murphy: Volunteer

In September 2009 I participated in the program *Witness and Remembrance: Historic Learning and Preservation at Auschwitz*. The trip included spending five days at Auschwitz as well as two days in Berlin, Germany where we visited significant historical sites such as the site of the former Berlin wall and Wannsee, a mansion on a lake where German bureaucrats met to work out the details of the "Jewish solution" that is now a museum. It felt very surreal being in such a beautiful place where the terrible "solution" was planned. Our leader, a German political science scholar, was very knowledgeable and extremely capable. He created an environment in which people were able to talk about their feelings, crucial given the nature of the trip.

My trip to Poland was a journey of profound significance to me. I knew, intellectually, of the horrors that had occurred at Auschwitz and Birkenau. To have the opportunity to serve at the sites was deeply moving. What I remember most of the journey was the opportunity we had to remove weeds from the Jewish Cemetery. Since the Jewish community is nonexistent in the town of Oswiecim, the cemetery had been neglected for years. Through the efforts of our group, the cemetery was restored to a dignified place of burial. I was thankful that this trip allowed me to make a positive contribution to the community.

JUNE



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"YOUNG LADIES AND YOUNG MEN AND THEIR PROFESSORS WHO COME TO JAMAICA BECOME ROLE MODELS FOR OUR YOUNG LADIES AND MEN, HELPING TO CHANGE THEIR PERSPECTIVE ABOUT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT."



PETERSFIELD, JAMAICA

Mathias Brown: Community Leader

In 2000, an Amizade Board Member and I proposed a program where students would come to Jamaica, stay in our homes and do voluntary service in our community. This was the birth of what we now call *Village Tourism for Education, Volunteerism and Development*. This program and connection with Amizade is now admired in all of Jamaica. In fact, the Minister of Tourism stated "I have never seen or heard of a tourism community development project with more potential."

Young ladies and men and their professors who come to Jamaica become role models for our young ladies and men, helping to change their perspective about community development. The American volunteers also benefit from the rich cultural exchange in music, dance, and food and learn how to appreciate people from the developing world. The wider communities respect the program and it sustains and gradually increases employment and gives a sense of pride in the community.

We are happy to be a part of Amizade as it has improved our lives, communities and Jamaica at large. Amizade is doing its part to connect the world and to make a difference in the lives of our people. It is difficult to put on paper or to measure these programs socially, economically, and educationally. If it wasn't for the vast amount of individuals and groups coming to the Association of Clubs from Amizade, our community would be a vastly different place.

JULY



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"NO MATTER HOW DESTITUTE THEIR COMMUNITIES OR SEEMINGLY INSURMOUNTABLE THE CHALLENGES... THE BEAMING SMILES AND HEARTFELT PRESERVANCE OF OUR VISIONS STUDENTS IS WHAT TRULY DRIVES US."



TAMIL NADU, INDIA

Greg Buie & Meera Pathmarajah: Community Partners

In India, poverty remains the leading source of educational deprivation among children. Moreover, social hierarchies and gender discrimination prevent many young people from realizing their potential to participate as educated, active citizens in a fast-changing society. Most students from low caste and poverty-stricken communities end up attending a government school, where they get lost in an inefficient and bureaucratic system that sees few children make it past 4th grade. Just 7% of all youth nationwide who attend public school graduate from high school. Visions is determined to help address these challenges and work to create a world where all youth, teachers, and communities are educated, empowered and uplifted.

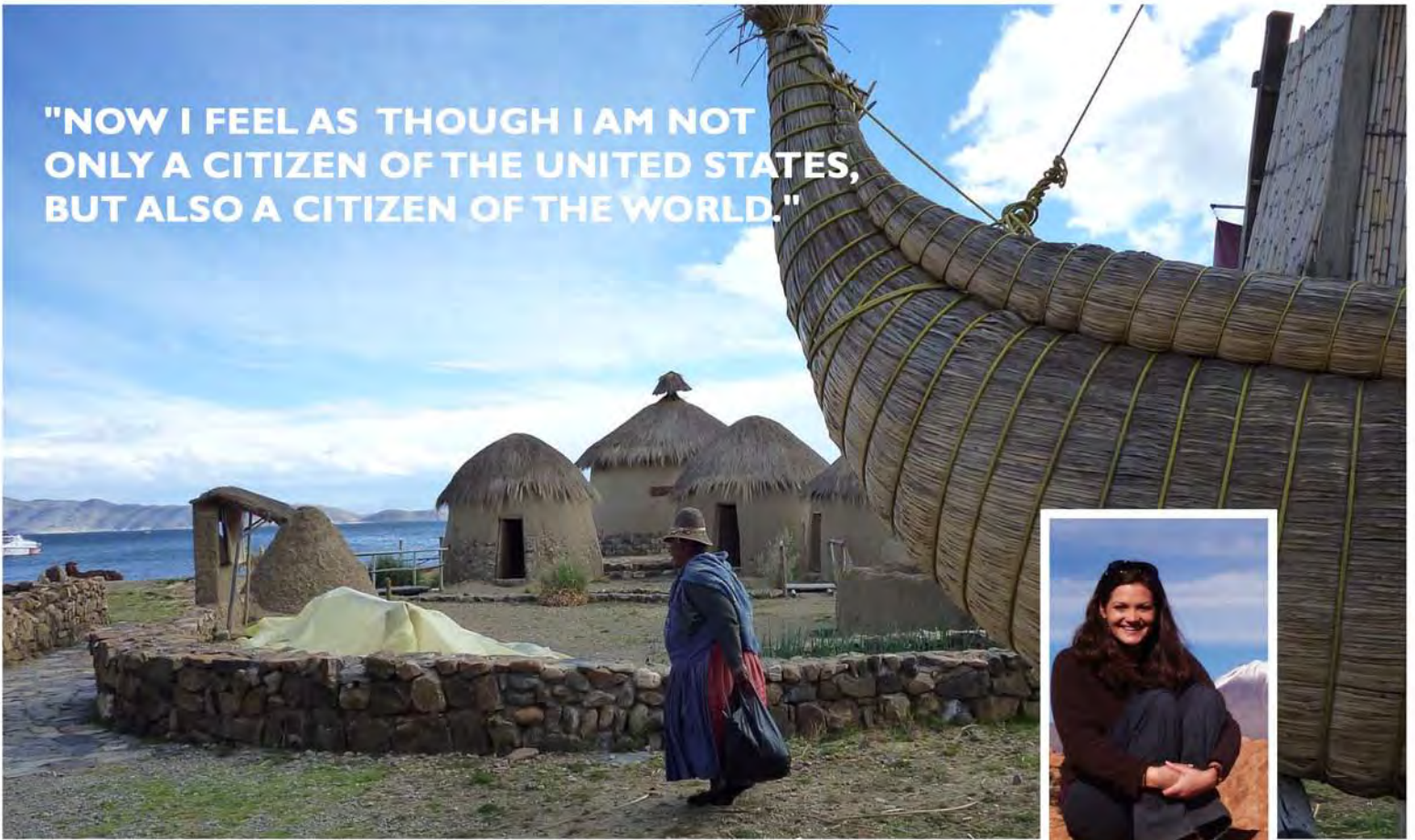
Now in our 9th year of operations, we are continually inspired by the youth we encounter. No matter how destitute their communities or seemingly insurmountable the challenges these young people face in their daily lives, the beaming smiles and heartfelt perseverance of our Visions students is what truly drives us. We are thrilled to be partnering with Amizade in India in 2012 and spearheading the first Amizade volunteer trip to Asia next June! We are eager to host this service-learning experience and to lay the foundation for a long-term engagement with communities in need in South India. We share Amizade's belief that service and international travel go hand-in-hand and that such experiences can be truly transformative.

AUGUST



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"NOW I FEEL AS THOUGH I AM NOT ONLY A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES, BUT ALSO A CITIZEN OF THE WORLD."



COCHABAMBA, BOLIVIA

Shawanna Mullenax: Student

As a Political Science major and Spanish minor my interests perfectly fit the Amizade Service-Learning Semester *Indigenous Politics, Service and Development in the Andes*. I chose this program because it offered everything that I wanted in a study abroad experience; fifteen hours of relevant course credit and the opportunity to spend three months doing service work in Cochabamba, Bolivia. I was fortunate enough to live with an amazing family that made it their mission to enhance my experience by teaching me about Bolivian culture and food. An added bonus was that my ability to speak Spanish improved significantly due to individualized classes five days a week.

Perhaps the most amazing aspect of my study abroad experience was working at an orphanage called *Fundación Niños con Valor*. The orphanage is committed to providing a safe home for children who have been orphaned, abandoned, or removed from a violent home. Working at the orphanage enabled me to give back to the community that became my home during those three months. My experience in Bolivia changed the way I view my life and the world. Now I feel as though I am not only a citizen of the United States, but also a citizen of the world.

SEPTEMBER



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"MY TRAVEL WITH AMIZADE LEFT ME CONTEMPLATING...MY PERSONAL AND GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY AS A PRIVILEGED PERSON."

PUERTO MORELOS, MEXICO

Kat Stackel: Program Facilitator

My travel with Amizade left me contemplating my views of other societies, the impact that I can leave in the places that I visit, and my personal and global responsibility as a privileged person. Puerto Morelos, a small town nestled between Cancun and Playa del Carmen, is divided both physically and socially by a highway. On one side is the beach with tourism and the money that comes with it; on the other side you can see what a difference it makes when community members do not see the good impact of tourism. Our service projects included teaching English in a kindergarten on the other side of town. Working with children from this underserved neighborhood allowed us to experience such a great sense of community, acceptance, and appreciation from the children and families.

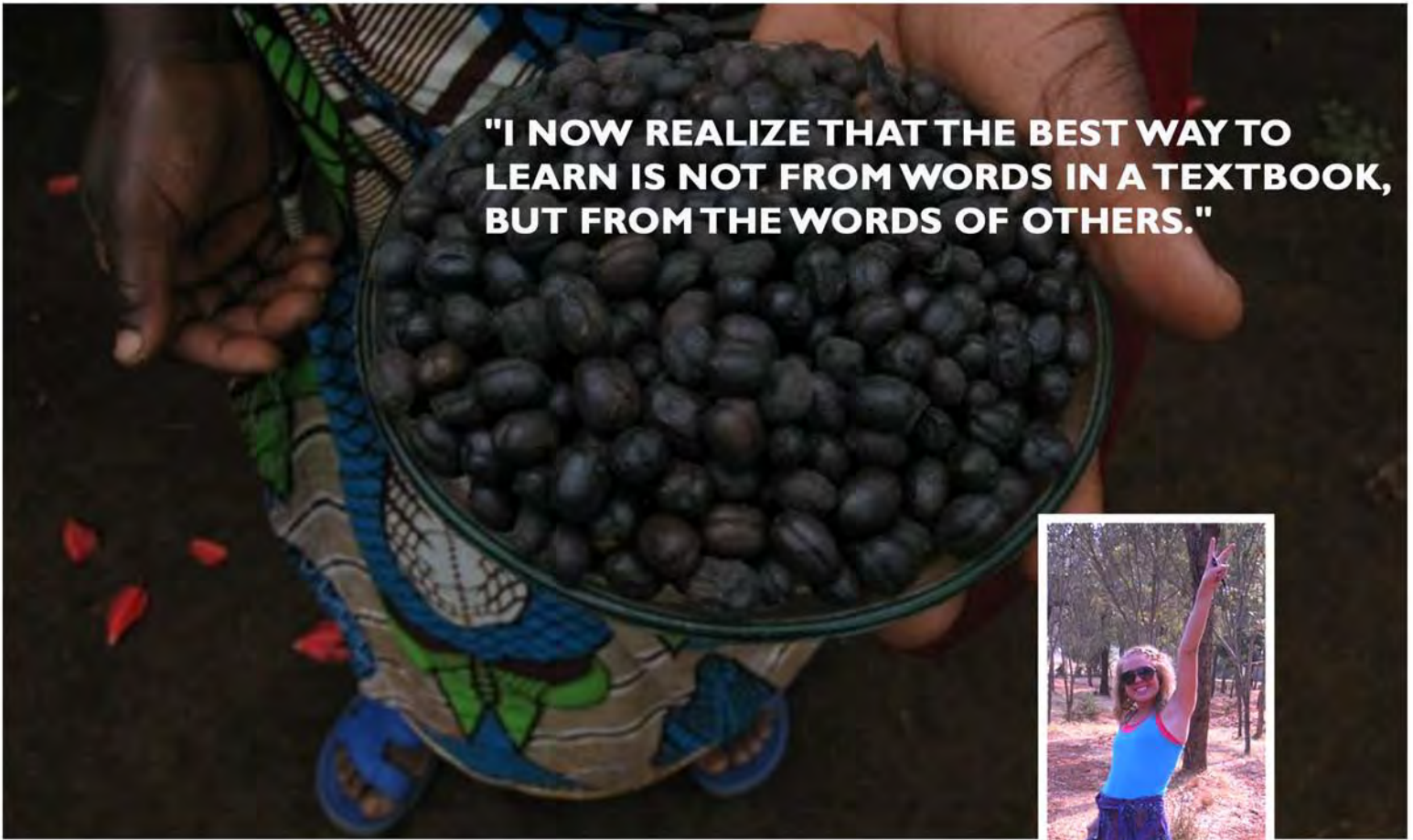
We also traveled to Guanajuato in the center of Mexico and had a very different, but equally eye-opening, experience. This city had a vibrant university culture and was much wealthier because of its mining industry, making it perfect for discussing Mexico's relationships with El Norte, the USA. My stay had me questioning my classifications of developing countries and the existence of infrastructures that allow them to maintain safe and healthy conditions. Mexico is so large and every place is so different that it is difficult to explain how it is, and better to remember that my experience was limited to two parts of a very diverse country. The Mexicans that we met, both Mayan and Mestizo, were so welcoming to us, I'll never forget their hospitality.

OCTOBER



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"I NOW REALIZE THAT THE BEST WAY TO LEARN IS NOT FROM WORDS IN A TEXTBOOK, BUT FROM THE WORDS OF OTHERS."



KARAGWE, TANZANIA



NOVEMBER



Emily Cowan: Student

My trip to Tanzania was my first time out of the United States, and it was an eye opening experience to say the least. My Amizade trip made me realize just how much there is to learn about the world. Before going to Tanzania, I equated learning with sitting in a classroom. I now realize that the best way to learn is not from words in a text book, but from the words of others. There is so much to learn in the stories that friends or even strangers take the time to tell. The value of the real life education that I acquired in Tanzania by simply learning from others can never be quantified.

The greatest aspect of my Amizade program was how I was integrated into the Tanzanian community, rather than just living as an American tourist in Tanzania. This program is truly different from other study abroad programs because it focuses on the development of a global citizen, rather than just a completion of college credits. My Amizade professors facilitated me in opening my mind and allowing for a global education that was far past the scope of my major.

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"I HAVE MADE NEW FRIENDS WHICH HAS GIVEN ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP AND SHARE MY TALENTS AND ENRICH MY CROSS-CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS."



JUKWA, GHANA

**Kwame Apiah:
Community Leader**

My experience with Amizade overall has been truly eye opening. As the local coordinator in Ghana, I work with Amizade volunteers who are placed at the Jukwa community clinic where they assist health workers on outreach programs within and outside the community. Volunteers are also working on the community library where we fetch water from the riverside to mix mortar for bricks, paint walls, fix book shelves and teach in elementary, middle and high schools.

In my time with Amizade I have seen my community grow from dirt roads to 4G networks. Throughout the changes, the constants have been my family and the frequent visits from Amizade volunteers.

I have made new friends which has given me the opportunity to develop and share my talents and enrich my cross-cultural encounters. Together, we have enjoyed drumming and dancing at bonfires with the local chief and his elders, visiting slave castles, the rainforest, and the beach. Amizade has changed my life and has also allowed me to have a comprehensive understanding of the human experience.

DECEMBER



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Paul Thistle, Tanzania

Pastor Chris Nyame, Ghana

Ellen Pechman, Washington, DC

Luis Rodriguiz, Mexico

Thank You.

A Special thanks to Amizade's partner institutions who served with us in 2011

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