EXAMPLE: Community Service Reflection-PROJECT

Community Service Project Title/Timeline/Hours of Service:
Classroom Supplies for Ghana/Winter 2015/25 hours

Describe the community service project in which you participated: For my community service project, I worked to raise funds for a community in Ghana. I knew I wanted to do a project connecting with education and began with researching African countries. In reading about schools in Ghana, I discovered that while access to education in the country has increased greatly, there are severe shortages of desks, chairs, and other classroom supplies in many Ghanaian villages.
http://news.peacefmonlin02/233392.php e.com/pages/education/2015

My next step was to plan a fundraising event so that I could send money to Ghana via a volunteer service organization. I was granted permission to host a competition at school and started a “Penny War” to collect coins for the country. At the same time, I also create brochures about schools in Ghana as well as posters to explain the conditions and generate interest in supporting this cause. I was able to raise $367.00 after a week long collection of coins.

Why did you choose or plan this project? I chose this project because my mom is a teacher and she has taught me how important education is. I knew I wanted to do something related to education and in doing some research, I looked at literacy rates initially and then decided to focus on Ghana. After learning about the school conditions, I shifted to raising money for supplies. I hoped to both educate my schoolmates and do a fundraiser that would be fun.

How did your engagement in this community service project expand your understanding of the world and its cultures? Through this project, I learned about the school conditions in Ghana and expanded my understanding of what education looks like in other parts of the world. I feel grateful to have grown up in Madison, Wisconsin and to have always had access to a quality education. Despite the challenges in an urban school district, I’ve had access to books, course choices, classroom materials and furniture in my learning spaces. It is humbling to think about the advantages we have in our American schools and what conditions exist elsewhere.

In what ways did this project make a difference for others and for your local/school community? I hope that through this project, there are more supplies available to help students and their schools. I received a thank you note from children in the village of Chinderi and it was heartwarming to read their message. I also hope that through this fundraising, I highlighted education conditions in other countries with my fellow classmates. Additionally, students in my English class have, in cooperation with our teacher, planned to continue correspondence with the school in Chinderi and we hope to sponsor additional events around access to education.