



15-year-old Unique Cheon learns that age is not an obstacle when lending a helping hand to those in need

Projects Abroad Jamaica offers a 2-Week-Special volunteering program to high school students between the ages of 15 and 18-years-old. An individual can choose to volunteer on the Medicine, Care or Building Projects during the months of June or July. Every year, volunteers come to Jamaica from all over the world not only to make a valuable impact but also to experience the rich culture of Jamaica.

This year, 15-year-old Unique Cheon, from San Francisco, decided to volunteer on the Two Weeks Special Building Project. "I have done local volunteering before but I wanted an opportunity to volunteer overseas and to help someone in need. I chose Projects Abroad because it seemed to be the best fit as it relates to having a structured program for my age group. I chose Jamaica because I had never travelled to the Caribbean before and the type of project seemed interesting. I also have lots of Jamaican friends who have told me about the country and so I wanted to see the culture for myself."

During her 2 week stay, Unique lived with a local host family along with other volunteers in her program. The aim of the Building Project was to build a one bedroom and bathroom house for a woman and her five children who had been living in very poor conditions. "Over the two weeks we carried materials from the road as the house was located in a valley along a narrow path, mixed mortar and helped to fill the floor with mortar and gravel."

"It has been an amazing experience. The project has also been very eye-opening. I am aware of these conditions through the media and this experience allowed me to get first-hand experience. Many would think that my age is an obstacle but that was not the case. There were other volunteers who had a common interest and it was reassuring to know that they too wanted to see this lady and her five children get a better place to call home. Many times people think that only famous people can offer assistance because of the large sums of money they give but there are other things that are

important to people as well."

"The decision to come to Jamaica with Projects Abroad was a worthwhile one. The staff was very supportive and welcoming. The social activities were really great especially the weekend travel trips. The volunteers who were on the project at the time also made the trip worthwhile; they come from many different countries and you get a chance to learn a lot more things about the wider world."

