Community Service Spotlight

Lynne Mooney Teta, Head Master
Thomas Kennelly, Program Director & Editor

BLS Junior Helps Bring Smiles to Children in Ecuador

Class II student Annie Schnitzer is interested in a career in humanitarian relief. Last month she experienced first-hand what it would be like to work in the field when she traveled to Ecuador as part of a Global Smile Foundation team.

Annie worked as the team photographer with a group of about 30 individuals from the U.S. who were joined by 15 medical students and volunteers from Ecuador. Together, they completed approximately 50 medical procedures performed by 5 surgeons on Ecuadorian children who had been born with cleft-palates and similar facial conditions.

Annie documented all of the work, taking pre, during, and post-operation photos of the patients and cataloging all of the pictures.

“I was really busy, it was a lot of work,” stated Annie, who was at the hospital from 7am to 9pm each day and then working until midnight back at the hotel.

“It was a great experience,” said Annie. “Seeing the parents reaction after the surgery, they were overcome with joy.”

While Annie had limited training as a photographer before the trip, the Advanced Placement Spanish student was prepared to communicate with the patients and their families in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

The trip has inspired Annie to continue with her community service work here in Boston, with the Wolfpack Volunteers and at Saturday’s/Sunday’s Bread Foundation team.

Global Leader in Guatemala

“God is Good, All the Time” on a car wash sign in New Orleans we felt a real connection,” added Regina.

The work in New Orleans was the highlight of a local service program that has included volunteering with special needs athletes, participating in a Catholic Charities food drive, helping the elderly and a number of other projects.

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Return Trip to New Orleans

Fifteen BLS students traveled to New Orleans over February vacation as part of the Holy Name Parish Youth Service Project.

It was a return trip for many of the students who had gone to New Orleans on a similar service leadership program last year.

They were part of a group of approximately 200 young people who helped work on a school damaged by Hurricane Katrina, insulate a house, and volunteer at a senior center.

“We enjoyed working with the seniors and attending their church service,” said senior Regina Riley, who helped to coordinate the trip. “But at the same time it was challenging seeing the destruction left by Katrina.”

“When we saw one of our priest’s favorite phrases “God is Good, All the