ALL THE RAGE AND CRAZE ABOUT CITIZENSHIP

Webster County – Morgan Border and her family actively engage in service activities, but Morgan wanted to expand her reach in an area she loved. “I wanted to find a citizenship [service] activity doing something that made me feel most comfortable, which is swimming,” noted Morgan. She then launched Stay A-Breast, where participants swim the breaststroke and raise money to fight breast cancer. The first event was successful: 60+ participants swam approx. 2,000 laps collectively, and generated a profit of $8,337!

This year, she’s at it again! On April 21st, the second annual Stay A-Breast will take place at Fort Dodge Senior High. You can participate by swimming, buying a t-shirt, or making a donation to Stay A-Breast. To get more information, participate, or donate, contact Linda Cline at the Webster Co. Ext. Office: (515) 576-2119. All profits go to the Trinity Cancer Center and the American Cancer Society.

Throughout this experience, Morgan has learned firsthand the value of helping others, and how easy it is for everyone to play a part. “It makes me think that every day I can do something to help someone,” she says. Huge congratulations to Morgan for all of her accomplishments, including being recognized as a State Honoree for the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards! Great work, Morgan!

What can you do each day to help someone?

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 21st
Stay A-Breast
Stay A-Breast is a breast cancer fundraiser that Webster County 4-H’er, Morgan Border, launched last year. (See article to the left.)

To find out more information, donate, or participate, contact Linda Cline at the Webster County Extension Office: (515) 576 - 2119

Be the change you wish to see in the world.
– Mahatma Gandhi
Melissa’s Mission with 4-H Ghana

For Melissa Tabke, global experiences are heavily integrated into her way of life. From Haiti to Panama and now Ghana, each experience has proved to be valuable. Melissa notes, “Each country I’ve been to is very unique, but I’ve always felt that connecting with people is the most important part of traveling, and the most important part of any experience. Building relationships and building community is essential.” She connected to the Haitians through her three medical and church-affiliated trips that added up to a total of six weeks in a country full of welcoming people. During college, she spent three months in Panama living in a jungle and connecting to the local farmers while working on sustainable agriculture practices. Now she’s in Ghana, where everyone is so nice, loving, and willing to share with her about Ghana, according to Melissa.

While Melissa was pursuing her Master’s Degree, a friend told her about an organization called AgriCorps. Melissa was immediately intrigued because she has always wanted to do long-term development work, which is what AgriCorps is all about. She signed up, and pushed through her master’s program. Initially, Melissa was assigned to teach in a technical school in Liberia, but was transferred to Ghana due to the Ebola outbreak in Liberia. She is placed in a teacher’s college in the capital city, Accra, where she teaches Science and Agriculture and serves as the advisor for the college’s 4-H club.

Melissa enjoys sharing her leadership skills derived from her 4-H experience with her students, but she also continues to utilize those skills in her current position. She adds, “Growing up in 4-H absolutely gave me the confidence to help lead by example and to help others do so. Being a 4-H advisor is constantly a learning process. So is being a teacher. 4-H has definitely impacted my ability to do both.” The main difference between Ghana 4-H and United States 4-H is that in the United States, 4-H has been established for nearly a century longer than Ghana 4-H. Still, they stand on the same foundation to empower youth, create innovative agricultural practices, and view farming as a business. This is essential in Ghana, because as Melissa says, “a lot of people in Ghana view farming as poor man’s work, not as a lucrative business.” Melissa strives to change that attitude in the minds of Ghana’s next generation.

Knowing how valuable it is to be culturally immersed, Melissa gives inspiration to be culturally aware: “Learn a new language, visit a major city in your area, go to an open mic night at a coffee shop, read books from all over the world! The rest of the world has so much to give! Don’t close yourself off from new experiences; get out of your comfort zone!” Good luck, Melissa, as you continue to make the best better in Ghana!

To be featured in our monthly newsletter, share your story with me!

Via E-mail: youth_rachelw@iastate.edu | Via Social Media: #Iowa4HGlobal

Accepting any questions, comments, or ideas regarding events, global citizenship or stories! Share with me today!!