The Citizenship Courier is a monthly newsletter established by the Global Citizenship Intern, Rachel Wonderlich, at Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. Check in often to learn more about citizenship and discover the ways you can get involved like your peers!

Citizenship is one of the 4-H curricula that teaches youth about their individual role in society and government. Citizenship is divided into four areas: civic engagement, civic education, service, and personal development. The Global Citizenship Intern aspires to empower the area of civic education, primarily focusing on global and cultural competence, while also creating awareness and increasing knowledge in the other three areas.

Rachel Wonderlich, Global Citizenship Intern | youth_rachelw@iastate.edu | #Iowa4HGlobal

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**AN UPDATE FROM OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS**

**India** - Dixon Samuel, the Director of NG International School in Gujarat, India travels to the United States from time to time. While waiting for his flight from Detroit to Baltimore on a recent visit in 2011, he struck up a conversation with Robbie Edalgo, a complete stranger, who was also waiting for the flight. After they each shared some information about themselves, they began talking about the work Robbie does with the 4-H program in Georgia. Immediately, Dixon became very interested in the 4-H program, thought it was “dynamic”, and wished to initiate a similar program in India. The Chairman of the school of which Dixon serves as Director agreed to help with the initial funds. For two years, Dixon worked with 4-H specialists in Georgia with high hopes of beginning the new 4-H program in India. Finally, after a long planning process, India officially began their own 4-H program on July 26, 2014. During the next seven days, they witnessed 276 youth enroll in the NG International 4-H Club, which has proved to be a blessing for all involved. Dixon wrote, “One missed flight opened a door to opportunity for the country. A classic example of looking for opportunity in the problem.”

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**January 2015**

**National Mentoring Month**

- nationalmentoringmonth.org
  ~ January is a month to celebrate mentors and the positive effect it has on those mentored! “Be someone who matters to someone who matters.” ~

**January 19, 2015**

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service**

- mlkdayofservice.org
  ~ In 1994, the U.S. government established Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as a national day of service. You can find a local project or create your own! ~
Jennifer’s Journey to Jamaica  
- Scott County -

Jennifer Best grew up in a traditional farm family with low socio-economic status in Emmett County. Similar to many children that call rural Iowa home, she never experienced much of the world outside of her small farming community. The extent of her travel took her to South Dakota and Minnesota a few times, but that was it. Her knowledge of global issues, even national issues, was very limited. However, at age 17, her perception of the world grew exponentially, and her life was forever changed.

The mother of Jennifer’s friend traveled to Jamaica on a medical and dental mission team each January. She allowed each of her three children to travel with her when they were a junior in high school, and they could bring a friend along. When Jennifer’s friend reached that age, she asked Jennifer if she would like to accompany her to Jamaica. Off she went to a country not too far from the USA, but very distant from anything she had ever experienced. Upon arrival, Jennifer stepped into a country with high levels of poverty and inflation, and full of political disputes. As you can imagine, medical care was desperately needed by Jamaicans. Jennifer served on a team that worked with Jamaicans that needed medical attention and performed simple procedures – wound cleaning, neck and spine pain relief, gynecological care, etc. – but touched many lives.

Soon after her trip to Jamaica, Jennifer realized “everything is relative” and “taking care of just yourself won’t solve world issues.” She longed for something more that would broaden her perspective on the world even greater. She then enrolled in a current events class, lived on an international dorm floor and had a Japanese roommate in college. Every cross-cultural experience helped her understand how big the world is. Currently, Jennifer works with Extension and Outreach in Scott County as an Extension Educator for Families, Youth, and Communities, and she believes the trip to Jamaica played a major role in where she is today in her career.

As Jennifer said, “4-H has the opportunity to expose kids to the world and mold them into better students, employees, and citizens. We simply cannot afford to have kids not be globally aware.” Join in the global movement with Jennifer and others to intentionally embed the cross-cultural experience in every 4-H activity!