The Citizenship Courier is a monthly newsletter established by the Global Citizenship Intern at ISU Extension and Outreach.

Citizenship is a 4-H curricula area that teaches youth about their individual role in society and government, and is divided into four topics: 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 highlighting the other three topics.

Check in often to learn more about citizenship and discover the ways you can get involved like your peers!

Rachel Wonderlich, Global Citizenship Intern | youth_rachelw@iastate.edu | #Iowa4Hglobal

THOUGHTS - INSPIRATION - ACTION!

“It’s the most wonderful time of the year.”

We all have various reasons why that phrase rings true for us during the holiday season. For me, it’s giving gifts to my family and friends. The joy that lights up their face when they open their gift is enough to make my heart shine with gladness. I’m sure many of you feel the same way about gifting to others or receiving gifts yourself. Depending on where the gift is purchased, that same joy could be felt around the world. Consider gifting fair-trade products this holiday season. Fair trade provides fair wages to producers, supports safe work environments, respects cultures, and ensures environmental sustainability. It’s good for the people and the planet! Some places in Iowa that sell fair-trade products include:

- Ames: Worldly Goods
- Burlington: Loving Opportunities Fair Trade (LOFT) Market
- Davenport: SIS International Shop
- Dubuque: A Ripple Effect
- Iowa City: Ten Thousand Villages
- Pella: The Work of Our Hands

Check out the Global Citizenship webpage for more ways to get involved as a global citizen!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Holidays Around the World

Look back at the November 2016 issue to learn about Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and the Chinese New Year.

January 16th, 2017
MLK, Jr. Day of Service
www.nationalservice.gov/mlkday

The December 2015 issue MLK, Jr. Day of Service. Check it out for great ideas!

“At the end of the day, it’s different cultures that make the world go ‘round.”
~ Samantha Fox

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Global Citizenship

Rebecca’s Mission to Leave a Legacy

In 2012, Rebecca Nelli (Webster County 4-H alumna) was encouraged to attend the Iowa Youth Institute on World Hunger as a senior in high school and was then selected to advance to the Global Youth Institute held at the World Food Prize Building in Des Moines. Her plans to become a music teacher quickly changed when she heard numerous examples of individuals solving a nearly impossible worldly problem with “determination, passion and a little creativity.”

Rebecca went on to intern at the Norman Borlaug Heritage Foundation in Cresco, Iowa – a small town with a global influence. The internship provided Rebecca a way to continue learning about the issues presented at the Youth Institutes and about the one individual who greatly inspired her: Norman Borlaug. She promoted his legacy and invested in the lives of children who visited the farm, just like Norman Borlaug did. He always focused on teaching, especially youth. It was Borlaug who began the Global Youth Institute; he knew the young people were the next generation to solve world issues. In Rebecca’s words, “Borlaug is probably the coolest person I’ve ever learned about and has a story worth sharing.” Borlaug grew up in a very small town and saved millions of lives through his plant breeding. He wasn’t the smartest in his class, but he had the most drive, passion and work ethic. “He had a very simple beginning, but went on to do amazing things.”

From Borlaug’s legacy, Rebecca learned many lessons which she desires to infuse in her own life: staying humble while being stubborn and fighting for what you believe; sharing knowledge through teaching others along the way; and keeping her passion alive no matter which twist or turn life may take her: “Wherever I am, I will focus on helping people.” Rebecca is currently studying Food Science at Iowa State and focuses on food insecurity in the United States. Though she is passionate about world food issues, she has come to learn that these problems are just as real in our homeland. In fact, one out of every four Iowans goes to bed hungry. It is part of Rebecca’s mission to change those statistics and, more importantly, better those lives.

Most recently, Rebecca helped plan the North Central Collegiate 4-H Regionals Conference, hosted by ISU’s Collegiate 4-H Club. Under her leadership, the planning committee prepared an entire weekend dedicated to world food issues through learning about Borlaug’s legacy, touring the World Food Prize Building, visiting the SHOP (ISU campus food pantry) and packaging nearly 10,000 Meals From the Heartland. When asked what she enjoyed about Regionals Conference, Rebecca said, “We had 50 representatives from eight colleges with a wide variety of majors, but each and every one of us had some connection to and potential for solving hunger in their respective career path.”

You, too, have the potential to make a difference right where you are. Rebecca wants everyone to know that it is important to remain aware, knowledgeable and passionate about what you believe in. Always look for opportunities such as the State Youth Institutes and the Global Youth Institute.

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