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 a 4-H curricula area 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

AN UPDATE FROM OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS

India - As mentioned in the December issue, India 4-H began its own program at NGI School last July, in which hundreds are already involved. Since its initiation, Dixon Samuel, the Director of NG International School in Gujarat and the Director of India 4-H, has strived to provide fun and educational opportunities for the youth. A few of the activities they’ve held with 4-H youth thus far include: a trip to a greenhouse with 1st – 4th graders, facilitated a mind control lesson that taught youth how to actively listen, and allowed the older youth to interact with some of the elders in the community. Mr. Samuel commented that it is already obvious these activities have allowed for great growth in the youth, and continues to look for ways to enhance India 4-H. As one should be able to tell, India 4-H has taken off with a great start! Some pictures from the above mentioned activities are below:

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 12th – 18th
National Volunteer Week
http://pointsoflight.org/signature-events/national-volunteer-week
~ A week to encourage individuals to dedicate their time and energy to be the center of change in their communities! ~

April 17th – 19th
Global Youth Service Day
http://www.gysd.org/
~ Raise Your Voice. Map It Out. Tell Your Story. Be a part of the change in our global society! ~

Be the change you wish to see in the world. – Mahatma Gandhi
Lydia’s Love for Haiti

Lydia Lee, Lyon County 4-H member of Inwood Country Kids 4-H Club, developed a strong love and desire to help others at a very young age which led her to visiting Haiti, the poorest Western country, three times already. Each visit confirms this is one of Lydia’s greatest passions – and she even dreams of living there as a missionary someday! Her family spent the week of Thanksgiving of 2014 in Haiti, and provided 105 bikes to children. This surpassed their original goal of 80 bikes, but with outstanding fundraising efforts and an overabundance of support, 105 children received new bikes to ride to school! Lydia and her sister love to interact with the Haitian children, and utilized their leadership skills as they taught the children how to ride their new bikes and play games.

According to Lydia, although “most people think Haiti is like a different world . . . the Haitian kids are the same as the ones in the U.S.” and the main differences between the United States and Haiti are cultural differences. In Haiti, all females must adhere to a dress code which says they must wear dresses, skirts, or pants that fall below their knees, which can be quite the test when temperatures reach 120 degrees during the summer. The food also differs from our culture, and Haiti’s frequently consumed foods include plantains (part of the banana family, but not eaten raw), rice and beans, chicken, noodles, and hot sauces. Haitians do not regularly engage with light-skinned individuals (especially children), so Lydia quickly grew accustomed to walking through a village and hearing the Haitians call out “blanc” which means white. As Lydia remembers, “The kids are so loving, and they just want to be with us – touching our hair, holding our hands, lightly pinching our skin to laugh at how funny it is when it turns red.” Not only the children, but everyone there is loving. Lydia recalls how a family served them a very large meal. “They remain ever kind and loving, giving without limit, and that never ceases to amaze me . . . they probably couldn’t eat for a week because of how much they spent on us . . . they impact our lives and teach us a way of living that is so different from what is considered ‘sensible’ in American culture. Yet they are so much happier, without their new iPhone 6’s and flat-screen TV’s. It is a simpler and joyous lifestyle.”

Clearly, the frequent trips to Haiti have impacted Lydia in a positive way. In addition, her 4-H experience has only enriched her cultural endeavors! “I feel that through events in 4-H, I have learned to better reach out to others and try new things.” Lydia has been asked to speak at many events, and also shared her story in the 4-H Communications event where she advanced to the Iowa State Fair. She loves every chance to speak out about her experience and inspire others. While away from Haiti, Lydia continues to make a difference in the lives of others as she sponsors two Haitians, which allows them to attend school and obtain basic necessities. Lydia encourages everyone to sponsor a child or find another way to contribute to our global society. Visit Lydia’s blog “Out of the Ordinary” at lydiamlee.wordpress.com. Warm wishes to Lydia as she continues to leave her mark on the world!

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 featured stories! Share with me today!!

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach programs are available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability. CER.13.01 April 2013