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Building a world where all people can be happy

Late in 2013, we initiated the *AllPeopleBeHappy* Fellows program with the goal of helping organizations train future leaders. We are excited to share a couple of updates from our 1st class of Fellows, and are pleased to announce the availability of the guidelines for applying for the 2014/2015 Fellows grants (www.AllPeopleBeHappy.org).

Ryan Brandt – Global Emergency Care Collaborative, Nyakibale Hospital, Uganda



“When preparing for a new life journey, it is hard to imagine the impact that the impending experiences will have on your life and the lives of others. The past eleven months working with Global Emergency Care Collaborative have challenged me in a multitude of ways that I had never expected and have exposed me to experiences that very few individuals ever have the opportunity to appreciate.

I began working with GECC as a research assistant responsible for maintaining all current research protocols and patient data collection. This position placed me in the Emergency Department on a daily basis exposing me to all sorts of new emergency scenarios. The Emergency Care Practitioners (ECPs) response to a variety of emergency patients, including traumas, malaria, pneumonias, and much more, illustrated the advanced Emergency Medicine skills that these ECPs have mastered.

In January, I was asked to take over the Program Director role. I now had the opportunity to affect the ECP training program in a more substantial way. My first challenge began with ensuring that the recently initiated fourth class of Junior ECPs received the same quality of didactic and clinical training that had worked so effectively in the past. I am proud to say that during the first few months of watching our new ECP class begin their studies, I witnessed a drastic transformation. At first, timid and hesitant in their patient assessments and diagnostic skills, I began to see immediate improvement as they began to own their patients’ care and think critically about how to help these patients.

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While I am hopeful that my work with GECC had a large impact on the lives of the Emergency Care Practitioners and the lives of the patients that they treated, I will never forget the amazing lessons and values that I learned while working with the ECPs and other GECC staff.

Sam Kayongo – Amizade Service Learning, Karagwe, Tanzania



Sam Kayongo is the site director for Amizade Global Learning in Karagwe, Tanzania. Among his responsibilities, Sam hosts American students and volunteers who come to work and study in this rural area of Tanzania. As part of his Fellowship, Sam was given the opportunity to visit the US. "This was my first travel experience outside East Africa. I must say that I was excited and indeed learnt many things. Preparations for my travel were very exciting... The preparation stage also necessitated me to work closely with all Tanzanian Amizade partners to get an update about their current programs for sharing with Amizade and other interested people that I would meet. I also visited the District medical officer to be briefed about the health situation of Karagwe, since I was slated to talk to public health personnel volunteers and health staffs at the University of West Virginia... It was also fascinating to collect parcels and gifts from Amizade friends in Karagwe for delivery to their counterparts in the US while the people in US reciprocated by sending back gifts that I carried when I was returning. The exchange gestures revealed to me a lot about the long time relationships and friendships between people in Karagwe and the US.

My visit to the US was also very rewarding. It yielded connections and lessons that I constantly share with people here in Karagwe. The visit also provided insights about differences between Tanzania and US which need to be taken care of in handling volunteers from the US."

Some of the differences Sam noted:

- "The roads in US have functional street lights; they are wider and have pathways for pedestrians. The streets are also clearly numbered, making it easier to trace any location. On the contrary roads in Tanzania are narrow and streets have no addresses. This constitutes a road safety precaution for US visitors to Karagwe.
- The US train transportation is such an efficient means of transport that if adopted could help reduce city transport problems in Tanzania and East Africa. The trains in Tanzania are very slow and regularly break down, forcing passengers to get stranded at train stations and often have to walk long distances in jungles to connect to other trains after a break down.
- I realized that most of my friends had pet animals like dogs and cats which they regard as family members. In Tanzania and my community we have stray dogs and have to orient Amizade volunteers to keep away from them."

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