

What Other Volunteers Say About DCI



Volunteering with DCI has been a rewarding experience that not only enhanced my resume, but also provided an opportunity for much personal growth. I learned so many things while volunteering with DCI. My experience made a serious impact on my career and helped create the person I am today. As early as 2005, while I was attending Highland Elementary School, I began to help with office tasks at DCI. As I grew older, I continued to volunteer with the organization and was given additional responsibilities that complemented my interests and strengths. I gained valuable skills by observing how a non-profit organization works from the inside and learned to think critically. Most importantly, the opportunity to participate in DCI's mission allowed me to make a difference in the lives of so many children and families. I am proud to have grown up with DCI in my life and plan to remain committed to DCI for many years to come. ~ **Sarah Meakin, Northeastern University, (From Cheshire, CT)**

I have been a regular volunteer with DCI since 2005, when I was in elementary school. I also went to Bangladesh to work with DCI-sponsored children. It's truly heartwarming to see how the work I do here is helping so many living in extreme poverty. I am very proud to say that I received the DCI Youth Volunteer Award in 2011 and was given a chance to speak at DCI's Conference on Child Rights & Sight at Yale. My volunteer work and this recognition definitely helped build my resume and made me a better person today. I also want to thank Dr. Hoque; it truly has been an honor to have his guidance and encouragement all through my childhood and even today. I am presently studying at UCLA and would like to be a doctor some day. I continue to sponsor a DCI child in Bangladesh and earn the \$15/month by doing odd jobs on campus. I wish to be one of the top decision-makers at DCI some day. My request to you is to please get involved at any age, at any level, at any capacity. It changed my life for the better and I am sure it will change yours as well.

~**Saika Kibria, UCLA, Los Angeles, California**



I have been actively involved with DCI since 2007. I never imagined going to Bangladesh, but I was given the opportunity to go there as a volunteer representative of DCI, and spent almost two months in a rural village. I am very grateful to the wonderful and dedicated staff at DCI. This was truly a life-changing and eye-opening trip for me. I came to recognize the power of combined volunteerism to bring change to the lives of people in poverty, but also the power of one person's vision to change the lives of thousands. My trip inspired me to get even more involved with DCI, and it confirmed my lifelong desire to work for the betterment of humanity.

~ **Jon Coleman, Duke University (from New Haven, CT)**



I have volunteered with DCI for over 6 years now! My mom, a music teacher at Highland Elementary School, introduced me to DCI. The people involved in this group are welcoming, caring, dedicated and inspirational. I have gained a sense of gratification and community from my work with them that I have yet to experience anywhere else. When I began working with DCI, I fully realized the huge responsibility we all have to help the people in our world, in any capacity possible. Working with this group is a beneficial way to fulfill an inner need to help society and to grow as an individual. It has been a wonderful experience and I encourage everyone to join in this noble cause.

~ **Juliana Fitzgerald, Waterbury High School, CT**



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DCI has developed excellent programs that give American children the opportunity to learn about children from countries around the world and foster in them a sense of empathy for others. I've been involved with DCI as a volunteer since its inception in 2003. DCI has taught me what living in poverty means for children and families around the world. I feel grateful for all I have and try to give what I can to others. This is a lesson I hope I taught my own boys through my work with DCI. My teenagers have gained invaluable work experience while volunteering for DCI. They learned both responsibility and commitment to something much bigger than themselves. My son Sebastian, a senior at Cheshire High School, has been sponsoring a child and has been volunteering for DCI for the past 5-6 years. It is empowering for him to know he can make a difference in another person's life. If you are a parent, you should consider getting your child involved with DCI. **~Molly Preudhomme, Cheshire, CT**

One of the best uses of my time in my childhood involved volunteering for DCI in order to bring better futures to the children of Bangladesh and India. I connected with this group in 2006, when it was in its very early stages and it is so great to see how far DCI has come through the hard work of its volunteers. Working for DCI has given me skills like communication, organization, leadership, and technology that I still use today. I have also sponsored a child since 2006. DCI has seriously contributed to all my success today, and I hope to continue my effort to help DCI for the rest of my life in the same way it has helped me to grow. My request to you is to please get involved at any age, in any capacity. It changed my life for the better and I am sure it will change yours too. **~Amanda Chang, Princeton University**



I joined DCI with the intention of volunteering whatever time I could give. I never expected that I would end up interning! Dr. Hoque is willing to find your strengths and find what tasks fit your skills and the needs of the organization. He helps people in every step to be successful. DCI is a great platform for youth volunteers' future leadership and success, like me. I have been able to gain experience in my field while also helping DCI flourish. I have learned so much about a nonprofit and made amazing connections that will stay with me my entire life. DCI is full of caring, honest, and extremely generous people who want the best for the people they work with and the children they serve. I am happy I found a place where I can make a change in the world and also help build my future! **~John Denos, Cheshire, CT**

I grew up in Cheshire and started volunteering with DCI when I was at Dodd Middle school. Working with DCI has been an incredible opportunity! Not only has working with DCI been a privilege, but it has helped me to grow as a person. Most importantly, I received fantastic recommendations and a volunteer certificate for my college application, which was so helpful. In addition I received a volunteer service award from DCI and a scholarship for college. I remain grateful to DCI for everything, and making me what I am today. DCI is a great organization and I urge everyone-if you have a few hours to spare, join this organization and help them better the lives of children here in the USA and in other countries.

~Deanna Tutrani, University of Hartford

