

Midhuna William, '09
Kitovu, Uganda



My summer after junior year was a humbling and an amazing experience. I spent seven weeks in Uganda, East Africa. After spending a couple of days in Kampala, I set out to a village called Kitovu to live and teach in an orphanage.



My first week was challenging with trying to understand the culture, meeting new people, communicating to the local people and the orphanage kids who lost so much but yet seemed content. The orphanage 'Peter K Gad School' gave a place to 300 children who lost parents due to the AIDS epidemic. Providing the children with food and a place to stay, they tried to make life as normal as possible.



After teaching classes in the morning, I was able to interact more with the people in the village by learning to cook Ugandan food, milking cows, washing clothes, getting firewood and many other chores that the Ugandan people were kind to teach me. The children would enthusiastically ask me about America, while teaching me their cultural dances and drumming. There was never a dull moment in this village and everything was done with a smile.



Soon, this village that once seemed strange and different from everything I knew was becoming a very comfortable environment. I did have to give up some so called "luxuries" that I was used to back in the United States. But in a very ironic sense, giving up those luxuries made me so much more content. I have realized the difference between living a comfortable life and a content life. Looking back, I can see how the children that I taught have done more for me than I could have ever done for them. My time in Uganda has taught me that no amount of money can buy the peace, joy and happiness that comes with genuinely loving people and just listening to what they have to say.





My experience in Uganda has filled me with respect and appreciation of the kindness of the Ugandan people. The hospitality of the people, kindness and acceptance of the families, the respect and love from the children, and the fun filled personalities of my new friends have made this experience one that I will always remember for the rest of my life.

