



For over ten years, hundreds of Dickinson students have dedicated their well-earned breaks to service through participation in Dickinson service trips. These trips have brought teams of students, faculty, and staff together to serve various communities across the country, and this year was no different. A team of 15 Dickinsonians drove for two days to serve with Habitat for Humanity of Greenwood, SC. The Greenwood, SC, community is one that has faced a number of challenges, many stemming from a changing economy and the closing of several factories in recent years. Throughout the week, our team was welcomed into this community with open arms as they worked to provide assistance to those who needed it most.

From March 8th-16th, these 15 Dickinsonians defied the stereotypes of the typical college student and the typical “spring break.” Instead of warm tropical beaches, they chose the chilly temperatures of northwest South Carolina. Instead of hotels and lavish apartments, they chose cement floors and sleeping bags. Instead of fancy meals and parties, they chose simple dinners, and games of “sardines”, “catch phrase,” and “word assassins.” Instead of thinking of themselves, they thought of others.

*Through their work, the team’s work impacted many as they weather-proofed windows, mudded and “stomped” a ceiling for a family, roofed a picnic shelter at a local park, and roofed a home for a new family. Close friendships were formed among team members, as well as neighbors and community members. Although all who participated began this trip as strangers, they ended it as family, and unknowingly, became part of something greater than themselves. Their passion for service was greatly appreciated and noticed more than they realized. As Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, **“What you do speaks so loudly that I cannot hear what you say.”***

Read on to learn how the deafening actions of our students in just one week changed their own perspectives, opened eyes, and brought hope to those in need.

Saturday, March 9th, 2013 – Brooke Serra '15

Yesterday was a great beginning to the trip! One of the main reasons I wanted to do service over the trip was so that I could meet and befriend people from all different parts of Dickinson and life in general. It's only been one day and I already feel like I'm doing that. Like I said, in reflection yesterday, I really noticed how nice and friendly everyone is here. My dad always taught me to be kind to everyone and to be respectful to all people I meet. I didn't realize that was just cultural customs for some places because at home, it is not. I definitely need to be sure that I keep being friendly to everyone and extending my kindness to those around me.

Saturday, March 9th, 2013 – Molly Thorne '15

Day 1: This was the day we had all been waiting for! I don't think it could have gone any better. Everyone seemed to click from the very beginning which was so exciting to use. Even just at the end of day one I felt like I have had some really great bonding moments and insightful conversations. It became very clear to me very early on that this is a WONDERFUL group of people. One of my favorite moments of the day was driving through the mountains as Jamie's copilot- the music, the company, the setting; it was all so perfectly comfortable and exciting there all at the same time. I'm really excited to have these people surrounding me this week because it is clear there are no judgments about each other or our surroundings, which is something I feel like we never get to experience enough of. I'm excited to learn more about everyone and see everyone's journey and discoveries as we continue to travel through the south and meet new people and new cultures.

Saturday, March 9th, 2013 – Jamie Bugel '13

We started out for Asheville, NC early in the morning and the weather for arriving could not have been nicer. The sky was so blue and every time we got out of the car it was a little bit warmer. It was so refreshing to get to go to a warmer place and get a taste of spring.

Everyone got along great in the vans and we could listen to great music the whole way. When we went through VA then TN then into NC the views of the mountains were breathtaking. We went through PA, MD, WV, VA, TN, and NC all in one day!

I was nervous about getting into Asheville and not finding a good place to eat or walk around but we were lucky to have Amanda find a place with outdoor games and actually the coolest feel to it, just a few blocks away from where we parked and had a delicious meal. We got to see street performers, dogs galore and much more in Asheville even for the shortest evening and I'm glad we got to visit.

Overall, it was a long day in the car but I've already forgotten about sitting and just remembering the great sights and sounds of the first leg of our spring break trip.

Saturday, March 9th, 2013 – Mical Tawney '15

Today was wonderful! I enjoyed talking to everyone while driving and getting to know more about them. After reflection, I thought more about some comments made. Aaron mentioned (I think) that it seems at Dickinson that there is a sense that people are afraid of being themselves unlike Asheville. This was interesting to me because I would agree in a certain extent. I think that people act like they want

especially with the “group” that they associate with but that people may change this with other groups on campus. I am certainly guilty of doing this. People create groups to help them control all of chaos in the world and to help them organize certain parts of their world. This may be a large factor as to why people act this way at Dickinson, especially because college is such a time of change for people. It is interesting to think of why students at Dickinson act this way and how it might be changed.

Sunday, March 10th, 2013 – Mamadou Balde ‘16

After visiting the Pearson Waterfall, and driving through the landscape, we reached our destination: Greenwood South Carolina. I have to say that the ride was fun and very relaxing. We started the day by leaving Asheville where we started experiencing the southern hospitality. It was a nice and interesting city that has a lot to offer. Personally, I was amazed at how people from different styles of living were interacting. It was just different from the northern part of the United States.

Looking back at the things we did today, I came to realize that my perception of the south before I came here was just misleading. As a man of color, I was told to be very careful coming to the south because of my race. However, the people living here seem very nice and I’m surprised to say that I like the southern culture. Especially the way people communicate. So far, I believe and have positive feelings that coming to Greenwood would make me more aware of the southern culture and help me understand and appreciate who I am and what I do.

Although we did not start our service to the Greenwood community, it seems that we will have a good experience working with the other groups and learning about the community that we will serve. We were warmly welcomed by the church and had a place to stay for the week.

As for the group growth, I believe that we are learning more about each other as time passes by. Today was the second day of our trip and I already feel close to the many of you. The time we spent at church was just amazing and chill. (Ha-ha, we ate 4 bowls of chips and salsa!!!). I’m looking forward to have more open discussion among the group and share some experiences. I’m glad to be part of this team, and together I believe we will grow and become stronger in our commitment to helping others.

I would like to end this entry by highlighting the good times I had today. First it was the delicious breakfast from the motel. Second, the adventurous hiking at the Blue Ridge Park, and the wonderful and unexpected lunch at the Calm da Towne. Finally, we saw the beautiful view of the Pearson Waterfall, where we took amazing pictures and had fresh air. Then, the great dinner at Chili’s and the basketball game with Riley, Sean and Asir. I have to say that it’s been a good day and hoping to see a better and more rewarding day tomorrow. Good Night!!!

Sunday, March 10th, 2013 – Amanda Hanson

This is easily my seventh or eighth time leading a group of college students on a service trip. You would think that by now, I would be tired of them or they would be boring or repetitive. However, it truly is not the case! I still LOVE service trips, they really are one of the reasons I fell in love with higher education, and definitely one of the main reasons I do what I do. There is something almost magical about piling a group of students into vans, driving somewhere “else”, and serving the community for a week. (They think they are just giving back for a week). What the students often don’t see –and I do from my

perspective – is the amounts of growth in them-selves, challenges to overcome, and friendships that form.

Today was one of my favorite parts of the trip. The team is just comfortable enough with each other to start talking and opening up, but the inside jokes and potential cliques haven't started yet. Yesterday, especially for the initial drive, the team was polite and friendly. Today I saw a world of difference, and it was fantastic. We took a short hike – walk really – up to Pearson's falls. Watching the students at the waterfall was really great. Everyone mingled, chatted with each other and had a great afternoon. They were SO much more comfortable with each other than this time yesterday. We were also at an absolutely stunning waterfall on a beautiful Sunday afternoon that was both spring and warm. Yes, I realize the challenge of trying to explain what five, fifteen, or twenty minutes means without the rest happening yet try to imagine it as a montage with music over top in the start of what you KNOW will be a great movie. Yes, that's exactly it.

Sunday, March 10th, 2013 – Cindy Baur '16

Driving through the mountains of North and South Carolina was absolutely beautiful. I love driving and today reminded me of the many trips I've taken with my family. I heard Asir and Angela talking about how their family trips are usually rushed and that they've been enjoying the relaxed pace of this trip. I have to agree with them. One of the things I love about these trips is how relaxed everything is. Yes, there is a schedule but it's never an issue if we don't exactly stick to it. When we drove past Pearson's Falls earlier and saw it was closed, it was no problem. Driving on that dirt road and ending up at that school and restaurant turned out to be a perfect way to start the day. Then when we were on the hike, I loved how relaxed the atmosphere was still. When Mical announced that we have 5 minutes left at the falls, I looked around and kept trying to guess what everyone was thinking. That location reminded everyone of something different. For me, it was a hike in Costa Rica that ended up at a similar waterfall. Then I started thinking about a bike ride I took with my sisters Vicky and Diane last year. During the ride, we found a random little waterfall. The whole experience like the day we had in Asheville, made me think about how I'd love to go back to revisit these places and explore more. I'm really curious if anyone else was thinking about anything similar during those last 5 minutes.

Sunday, March 10th, 2013 -- Riley Dickson '15

Traveling when you're not in a rush is always a lot nicer. It was nice being able to take out time on the last leg of the trip. Today, you could definitely tell we were in the south. The accents, hospitality, Romney stickers, cars (tons more SUV's) were all more apparent today. I have visited every region of the United States and the south is truly the only region with an independent identity, at least in my opinion. I'm glad that I got some exercise; I was going a little crazy after several meals of good ole' southern cooking. I'm excited for what the week will bring and I'm enjoying the group. It's a much different group of people than I surround myself with at Dickinson.

Sunday, March 10th, 2013 – Phanette Nguyen '16

We successfully persuaded Asir to sing for us in his native language - Bangeli. It was just very spontaneous and I think everyone really appreciated it. Anyway, it's lights-out and I'm writing under the light from my iPod now. Tonight, is our first night sleeping together in the church. Tomorrow we are going to the work site and start working. I'm excited and nervous at the same time though. During reflection we talked a lot about how helping people out can be tricky sometimes. But, I'm sure

everything will work out. Okay I'm going to stop writing now because I don't want to disturb people with the sound from my pencil.

Monday, March 11th, 2013 – Phanette Nguyen '16

We had our first work day today!!! The sun wasn't out until noon and it was a bit chilly too so that was a big low for some people including me. But anyway, we quickly got to work after having breakfast prepared by Mical's crew. At the work site, we were split into 2 groups and the gender issue did come up at some point where we felt like we were being treated a little bit unequally: the boys always get the harder and more difficult jobs than the girls. Mical brought up a really good point of how that might be just an aspect of Southern culture and how the volunteers just want to be gentlemen.

On my site, where we had Angela, Becky, Kate, Molly, Brooke, Andy, Asir and me, even though there was a lot of work and we felt kind of frustrated by that, overall it was good. We helped a total of 3 families fixing their storm windows, repainting the shutter, and caulking (which is a new skill I just learnt yay me!). It just felt really good, being able to help people and see how appreciative they are too. So that's our first day. It was raining a little bit tonight but we hope everything will clear up by tomorrow and the sun shines more too.

Monday, March 11th, 2013 – Cate Munkittrick '14

Well, today was my first day of actually doing service for Habitat. It definitely was not what I have expected in my head. I thought we would be in this little neighborhood out in the country, building a house. As it turned out, our first day was a bunch of little rehab projects on houses. At first, I was a little disappointed that we wouldn't all be working together to create a house we could take pride in building. I had envisioned myself working under the sun, hammering away. Well the sun eventually came out today, which was a welcomed sight. And I realized that working on a bunch of little rehab projects was still making a significant difference in the Greenwood community, which is why I wanted to go on a service trip in the first place. We were able to interact with about four sets of homeowners and they were all so incredibly gracious for our work.

I had the pleasure of caulking windows for the first time today. Needless to say it was quite a sloppy job (Mike was polite to comment). I apologized to the homeowner, but he didn't care how the window looked as long as it stayed in place. I realized how paradoxical this situation would be in my town. Most people who live there would flip out if they found out an inexperienced 21 year old girl was caulking their windows and leaving smudges everywhere. However, the homeowners in Greenwood were simply appreciative of the work being done, not caring (or not affording to care) of the quality of the job. This situation reminded me of how easy it can be to become obsessed with how you are perceived by others. It saddens me to see the length people in my town will go to just portray the ideal "well-to-do" appearance in terms of their homes and themselves. The homeowners in Greenwood reminded me of how much more important it is to connect with people on the personal level and not to try and live up to a superficial standard some people try to set.

Monday, March 11th, 2013 – Angela Medrano '16

I'm in love with difference. Partially because it just makes our common goal of helping those in need that much more emphasized, but also because listening to different accents is actually the best.

I wonder if country music is their actual favorite type of music. I know it has been played multiple times when we were listening to the radio, and their accents seem to match the same in notations within country music. I wonder if the majority of South Carolina follows the "stereotype" accent. I'd love to hear that accent in rap or opera, something unexpected.

Anyway, today's favorite moments were listening to people's stories and hanging out with you guys. It is incredible how open they are, how willing they are to share themselves with complete strangers. I'm so grateful and lucky to hear their story, their culture and how that was created. I really adore getting to know each one of you. Also marriage between mama + Stephanie = beautiful. Can't wait to live more memories with ya'll.

Monday, March 11th, 2013 – Aaron Hock '15

Well our service work has official begun, and it was certainly very rewarding. The first rewarding aspect was talking to the men whom with we worked. Each one had an array of experiences they were willing to share with us. For instance, Hank spent 3 years building his own house. And Doris' wife used to live where I am from in Pennsylvania. Their "Southern hospitality" shone through in their willingness to help, but they also showed genuine interest in our own background and experiences.

Another highlight of the day was meeting Mr. Williams, whose home we were working on. He showed incredible appreciation for the work being done and his presence allowed us to fill-in another part of the narrative about poverty in Greenwood. For Mr. Williams, the cost of his cancer treatments was likely one factor that led to poverty. Yet, Mr. Williams was also black. In a region of the US where racial prejudice and discrimination are so persuasive, the color of Mr. William's skin put him at a disadvantage since the day he was born. This is why so many more blacks live below the poverty line than whites. Though it is definitely more complicated than this, I am interested in how race and poverty correlate here in the South.

I am also interested in the role of crime in this equation. One of the most interesting things I heard today was some of the volunteers discussing the weapons they owned. Apparently, South Carolina has the highest number/percentage of concealed weapon owners. For them it was clearly a means of protection, suggesting that violence either with guns or not, was an appropriate punishment for crime. Theft was clearly an issue in the area, with the men pointing out suspicious people walking by who happened to be black. They also were sure to lock up all their tools and chain together their ladders. This was interesting to me since I come from a town where people don't even lock their doors. Though it's known that poverty and crime are usually found together it's really frustrating that people feel like (concealed) weapons are the necessary response. More things to ponder as the week goes on.

Tuesday, March 12th, 2013 – Asir Saeed '16

Day four. Things have been moving a lot faster and smoother than the previous days. There was no rush, no unexpectedness, and no weariness when I woke up in the morning. However, as I stuffed bread in my mouth, swallowed it with milk and headed for the van, little did I know that I would have to take down a roof and put up a new one. It was exciting to say the least and today was much busier than the previous ones. I was a little scared in the beginning but slowly got used to the standing on a slanting roof with a shovel in my hand, scraping out the roofing shingles. Time flew by so fast; by the time we took it down it was already lunch time. Lunch was great! We had Lasagna, pasta, salad and brownies and cake for dessert. It amazes me every time I see their hospitality. After lunch all of us went outside because the sun was shining and simply being in the warmth, oblivious to the world around us, in peace and quiet.

Work after lunch went a lot easier because we were used to the conditions and the delicious lunch recharged our batteries. During the later part, Aaron, Brooke, and I went with one of the volunteers to scoop mulch onto a trailer. That became my high of the day as we were riding around Greenwood on the back of a truck, feeling its clear, fresh air rushing past us.

Another one of my highs of the day was cooking dinner with everybody, and having it outside just during sunset. I felt we had formed and strengthened our bonds. Dinner ended with laughter with everyone sharing a funny moment of the day. We even had a discussion during reflections and we played Sardines afterwards. I really felt challenged both mentally and physically. Moreover, I'm looking forward to finishing the roof and another day of fun community service.

Tuesday, March 12th, 2013 – Sean Brennan '14

Can make cement mud unlike any other
Loves making houses in his purple jacket
Yells at the top of his lungs, build!
Damn, Clyde go hard in the paint
Everyone aspires to be Clyde

Mamadou left us all speechless
Always belongs to the ball team that wins
Mama don't lose with the game on his shoulders
Always plays hard defense
Doesn't have any competitors when reading would you rather
Oh wow he got mad game
Ur da man.

Wednesday, March 13th, 2013 – Jamie Bugel '13

We've been in Greenwood for a few days and it's gone by so quickly. But has also felt like a lifetime at the same time. I have been so lucky and have seen every place that we have worked (the larger projects as well as the smaller maintenance jobs that I have been focusing on).

Today Mamadou and I finished painting and caulking windows for a woman who offered us sweet potato pie. It was delicious and I have never had it before. She was extremely nice and thanked us for our work. We also got to talk with Mike a lot more today, which was great because he is not usually much of a chatter. We asked him what age he would want to go back to if he could and he said his mid-thirties. His reasoning was so fascinating because he said at the time he was only focused on himself. He said he used to laugh at the people doing service just like he is doing now, but has obviously changes his ways.

I keep thinking that since I am graduating soon I am done with major personal growth, but Mike's comments showed me that you really are evolving throughout your entire life.

Also it was my favorite weather, bright blue sky and a little chilly but so great. I did get a little burnt but that may have been the wind.

Wednesday, March 13th, 2013 – Mical Tawney '15

Religion has really been on my mind for these past couple of days. I have been exposed to religion before and its important role in the south but lately, I have been looking into my views on religion.

I was so happy with the discussion that happened tonight and was also happy to see that other people were all thinking similar things to me. I think that religion can do bad and good things and I enjoyed that the video talked about how it was more important to do good deeds rather than to do the "traditions" of religion. I think religion and tradition coincide with one another and that it is deeper than that. I think it may be a lack of education on one's own religion or a lack of interest. I think one should be truly interested in the religion one participates in which is why I want to explore other religions outside of Christianity. Growing up with a certain religion can really influence a person and how they grow individually and see the world which is why I like when parents allow their kids to make their own religious choices. There is so much that I could say on the topic of religion but this is enough for now.

Wednesday, March 13th, 2013 – Brooke Serra '15

Besides all of the amazing service we've been providing, some of the best parts of the trip have been our discussions and getting to know each other. I think I have learned something new about every person on this trip and in the Habitat family. From watching Mamadou and Asir pray to coming up with a new social project with Molly, everyone has made an invaluable impression on me. I have loved getting to know a side of Dickinson I might never have gotten to meet otherwise. We are able to laugh with each other and turn every new situation into a positive, fun one. Listening to people's highs/lows has shown me how great everyone else's weeks have been, and I'm happy that I got to be a part of that. I hope we all continue to be friends and hangout and laugh together when we get back to Dickinson. Also, you're all invited to the real wedding (even Sean).

Wednesday, March 13th, 2013 – Molly Thorne '15

This morning I was so tired and it was pretty cold and the morning was pretty slow moving. Luckily the rest of the crew joined us in the afternoon, which pretty much made my day. We played tons of fun games to make everything go by faster and more fun. Brooke and I won the wheelbarrow race on a technicality, but we still won.

Key Events of the Day:

- Hank – a little bit cranky today (Update as of 3/14: Hank and I are back on good terms)
- Mike gone for "hours" → nap time!
 - o This was an example of how amazing Jamie and Mical are as trip leaders –they saw that it was not necessary for everyone to stay at the work site for hours. It seems so simple but it's not and they have done an amazing job of managing everyone's desires and needs this week. Love them
- Are you a fan or a follower?
 - o Got to meet and interact with Westminster Presbyterian Congregation!
 - o Met a lovely lady... don't remember her name...

Wednesday, March 13th, 2013 – Sean Brennan '14

(Dirt Road Anthem tune)

Greenwood Anthem

Dirt Road Anthem
Chillin on Lindsey Road
Laid back swervin' like Clyde Blizzard
Ridin' dirty rollin' out like wind
Barry's tin sittin' in the console
Memory lane up in the headlights
It got me reminding on them good times.
I'm turnin' of a real life drive and that's right
I'm hittin' easy street with van times

Back on Monday Phoenix Street was the place to go
Load the vans up and hit the main road
Jump the curl, spread the word
Light the bonfire then call the crew
Barry's dip and Larry's pipe
Papa John n' Mike were a few good men
Where you learned to shingle, paint and stomp too.

Better watch out for the boys in the crew
All this small town he said she said
Ain't it funny how stories spread?
Like I know something y'all don't know
Man painter Bob is getting old
You better mind your business man,
Watch your mouth
Before I have to know that loud mouth out
I'm tired of talking man y'all ain't listening
That old Greenwood is what y'all missing?

(Chorus)

I sit back and think about them Greenwood days
The way we worked in the southern ways
And we like sweet tea and un-sweet too
And if its broke can there we fix it
I can tell y'all where to go
Down to the West Muster back in the woods
We do it different down here that's right
But we sure do it good and we do it all night
So if you really want to know how it feels
To get off the road with vans and Dickinson logos

Jump on in and tell your friends
We'll raise some hell where the city limit ends

(Chorus X2)

Thursday, March 14th, 2013 – Cindy Baur '16

Today was an amazing day. It was my first time at this work site working with everyone on the roofing. I think out of all of the jobs I've done on this trip I like putting on the roof the best. It's like piecing together a puzzle. My favorite part of the day was the dinner at Chad's. I especially enjoyed when Aaron handed out the paper plate awards. I haven't worked closely with many of the volunteers except for today but I still really enjoyed working with them. I love their sense of humor. This week has gone by so fast. I can't believe tomorrow is the last day. I'm so thankful for this week, the people (both from Dickinson and all the other workers) and the service we've completed. I'm so glad I've been able to share this experience with everyone.

Thursday, March 14th 2013 – Mamadou Balde '16

Today has been a great and very memorable day. This morning, we went to the worksite early and found out that we have to wait for another hour before starting out. Brooke and I made some hot chocolate for Hank and he really loved it. The morning started with a cold weather and that made working a little bit discouraging.

In the afternoon, things started getting better and we were all on the roof working and having funny, interesting conversation. This was the first time that we all worked in the same site and I loved it.

Today was a special day because we had a tour of Greenwood and got t-shirts from Habitat. But I would have to say that having dinner at Chad's house with the other volunteers. The food was delicious and the hospitality was just awesome. We had a very good time talking to the volunteers and their families. It was nice hearing them talk about their lives and share stories about their youth. It was such a wonderful experience and that just made my day more amazing and I will always remember the fun, nice and memorable stories we heard around the bon fire. It made me sad to see that the trip's almost

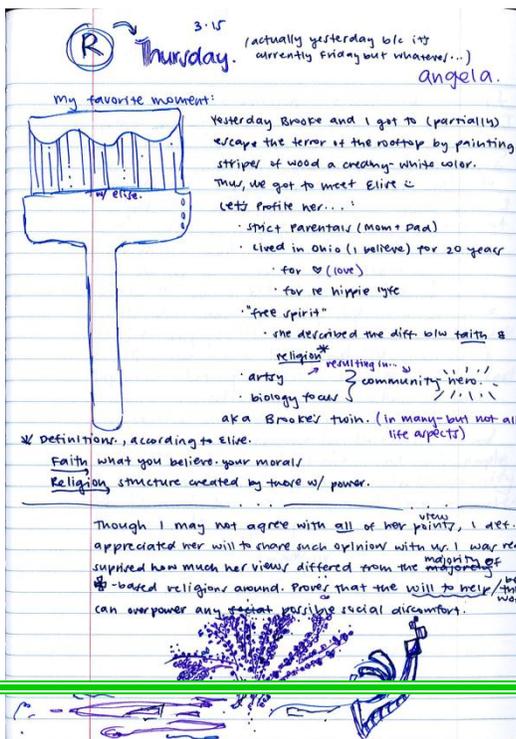
over but I'm very grateful to meet so many awesome folks and spend an entire spring with you guys. I hope that we will keep building the relationships we started on this trip after the trip and make the good moments we have had.

Friday, March 15th, 2013 Angela

My favorite moment:

Yesterday Brooke and I got to partially escape the terror of the rooftop by painting stripes of wood a creamy- white color. Thus, we got to meet Elise (let's profile her...)

- Strict parentals (Mom + Dad)
- Lived in Ohio (I believe) for 20 years
- For love
- For the hippie life



- "Free spirit"
- She described the difference between faith and religion
- Artsy
- Biology focus
- Aka Brooke's twin

Definitions, according to Elise:

Faith - what you believe –your morals

Religion - structure by those with power

Though I may not agree with all of her viewpoints, I definitely appreciated her willingness to share such opinions with us. I was really surprised how much her views differed from the majority of based religions around and prove that the will to help and better the world can overpower any possible social discomfort.

Friday, March 15th 2013, Aaron Hock '15

Well, the trip has finally come to an end. But the accomplishments we've made this week are crazy to think about. We did an entire roof! Thinking back over the week, something that stood out to me was the connections that were made between the students and the Greenwood Habitat volunteers. They showed that it really is a small world after all. Talking to Don I discovered that one of his wives used to live in York, PA, where I am from, and she used to teach at the college there (not to mention that apparently all of Don's wives are from Pennsylvania!). Then Chad "dropped the bomb" that he was related to THE Dr. Benjamin Rush. The nerdy tour-guide side of me had a field day as Chad explained some of his family history, and how Rush's son moved to South Carolina to be a pastor. These happenings meant for me that no matter how different South Carolina and its people seem to be from Pennsylvania and its people, there are a lot of mutual histories, experiences, and interests that can be drawn on. I am not saying that "everyone is the same deep inside! That's why everyone should be treated equally!" This is not the truth: though I absolutely believe in equal rights I acknowledge that people do come from very different experiences that shape who they are, what they have, and the things they do. In Greenwood it seems like there was a visible divide between the upscale, thriving downtown and the less wealthy suburban areas. The same divide seemed to exist at Westminster Presbyterian Church, where we stayed. All of the members we met and all of the photos I saw featured white members of the church. Yet I'm sure there are predominantly black Presbyterian churches in Greenwood. Even though they all believe in the same God and read the same Bible, there is a divide. I think the people of Greenwood (and people all over the United States) need to recognize difference and privilege, but be willing to interact with people unlike themselves so that they can find commonalities and break down the barriers socially created between race, class, and so many other things. Greenwood would benefit from this; my hometown would benefit from this, and as we travel home, I realize that Carlisle certainly would as well.



Friday, March 15th, 2013 Cate Munkittrick '14

It was hard saying goodbye to Greenwood. The people I met have impacted me in such different ways. From Larry I learned that breaks are necessary, especially if they involve food. He had to tell us several times to get down from the roof and come have a snack. Barry taught us that safety comes first. I am proud to say that I am returning to Carlisle with all my fingers and ten toes. Don was definitely the best teacher of the group. He took time to teach us how to replace circuits and take out storm windows, even though it would have been faster for him to do it all himself. Prett was a great example of someone who wanted to personally give back to the community that raised him. He is happy with the life he has in a world where people seem to want more and more for themselves. Clyde was a great example of how every little bit counts. He wasn't able to fully get on the roof, but he still worked along the edges of it, hammering away. Hank had faith in us. Sure he sat in a lawn chair while he told us to work, but he trusted we could build it, and wanted us to have the opportunity to accomplish building it ourselves. Mike taught us patience, which we taught to him right back. He wasn't used to dealing with college kids; he was used to getting the job done. It took him a while to accept that the experiences of helping out and volunteering were even more important than the physical result. I learned from him that some people need time to adjust to new situations, but their hearts are always in the right place.

Finally, the most important lesson was learned from Chad, "If you do what you love, you will never work a day in your life." It really put me into perspective. So much of the college drive is focused on being

successful but not necessarily happy. Jamie made a very profound comment at reflection. She said she always envisions her future in terms of the profession she will have, From now on she will look forward into the future and examine the type of person she will be. I am going to do my best to embody that attitude. Chad is a living example of doing what he loves and being happy –with friends, a beautiful family, and a comfortable home. Because of the cancer, Chad knows his days are numbered. He wants to die knowing he lived a happy and fulfilling life. However, aren't all of our days numbered? Life is short! From this trip, I need to start measuring success by happiness.

Saturday, March 16th, 2013 – Asir Saeed '16

Waking up this morning I missed the smell of paint and wood on my clothes. I was no longer inside a sleeping bag on a cold hard floor, which made me realize I was finally heading back to Carlisle. It made me realize how much I was going to miss the volunteers of Habitat, especially Chad, our antics at the church, getting up on a roof and hammering in shingles, doing reflections at the end of every day and spending time with everyone on the trip. After breakfast we were back on the road and throughout the journey I kept remembering moments from last week. Last night's reflections had me recharged and focused on what I could try to do to contribute to my community. Moreover, I had made connection with people who had similar passions about community service as I did. People who would keep me focused if I ever lost my way.