

Grace Elizabeth Groner Foundation

The Grace Elizabeth Groner Foundation's mission is to preserve Grace Groner's legacy by encouraging Lake Forest College students to prepare for their careers and lives of service to their community and alma mater.

Spring 2015

First Grace Fellow to Volunteer at Maria Auxiliadora Convent, School, & Clinic

Victoria Egedus, Class of 2014, has spent the 2015 calendar year at Maria Auxiliadora. Ma. Auxiliadora is a convent, school, and clinic that is run by Catholic donations. The clinic survives on donations alone, and is funded by the catholic convent. The clinic serves the poorest population in the surrounding area of Alejuela, Costa Rica. Many patients of the clinic are immigrants from Nicaragua and Honduras. Services and specialties available are lab work, and pharmacy, general medicine, gynecology, ophthalmology, pediatrics, psychology, physical therapy and dentistry.

Vicky has restructured the patient charts and records, been responsible for taking pre-consultation metrics, and shadowed doctors in various specialties. As a recent gathering, head nun, Sor Magdalena, widely recognized Vicky for her work and invited her to return after medical school.

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Groner Recipient gets warm farewell from actors at Gorton Center

By Daniela Resendiz

Joaquin Basile spent the 2014-2015 academic year pursuing a service project that embraced his passion for theater. Joaquin volunteered with Golden Apple Award-winning teacher, Thomas Beck, "Mr. Beck" at the Gorton Community Center. Joaquin assisted Mr. Beck with children actors for the plays Winnie The Pooh, The Witches, Cinderella, and Fantastic Mr. Fox.

Joaquin, or "Jay" as the children called him, reflects that working with children allowed him to improve the way he taught acting. During class, Mr. Beck assigned Joaquin a variety of responsibilities and often split the classes so that Joaquin would have an opportunity to work directly with the a group of children. Joaquin used methods which had had learned during his LFC theater classes and Mr. Beck's guidance to adapt techniques and methods for the younger actors. Joaquin and Mr. Beck hoped that the new approach would allow the children actors

to express different emotions, body language, persuasion, and confidence. Joaquin was in awe as the children embraced new activities and exercises.



Joaquin was astonished at the enthusiasm that children portrayed when they were in class. Joaquin was amazed at how quickly they were able to learn a technique or method, embrace the personality of their characters, and memorize their lines.



After the successful final performances, Mr. and Mrs. Beck presented Joaquin with a touching "Thank You!" poster that had been signed by all the children actors. Joaquin appreciates one actresses's scribbly handwriting that reads, "thank you for making me a better actress!"

The GEGF would like to thank the Gorton Community Center and Mr. and Mrs. Beck for creating this unique opportunity for Joaquin. Joaquin benefited greatly and became a better actor due to the responsibilities that he was given.

Note from the Trustees

We have completed a busy and successful year at the Grace Elizabeth Groner Foundation. So many Lake Forest College students, faculty, and staff have worked together with the GEGF Trustees and the Director, Daniela Resendiz, as she coordinated unique service internship opportunities through the 2014-2015 academic year.

First, we would like to congratulate the graduating seniors whom we have supported this year. They are Akua Agyei, Abigail Brownell, Luis Beltran, Elizabeth Bulley, Ryan Dranke, Olga Kutkovska, Hiwot Mamo, Ariana Uwamba, and Periana Wilson. It was our pleasure to host them and their families at our fourth annual Senior Celebration. The parents expressed their gratitude to the Trustees and Director for providing their sons and daughters with opportunities for community, national, and international service while developing and enhancing their talents and skills. We are proud of their service, accomplishments, and the ties Groner Recipients made with the Lake Forest community, the United States, and the world. Many of these students are representing the GEGF by continuing to serve during the summer and a few will continue to serve throughout the following year. We have every confidence in them as they follow their academic and career paths. Congratulations to the new class of Grace Elizabeth Groner Fellows!

To the undergraduates who were and became Grace Elizabeth Groner Recipients this year, we expect that you will step forward and accept the opportunities for service and academic experiences the GEGF provides. Rising seniors are Antonio Avila, Heather Heitkotter, Yusuf Ismail, Samuel Mercier, Sally Nahhas, Ryan Porter, Maria Ruiz, Hannah Samberg, and Matthew Spehlmann. Rising juniors are Brittany Avots, Joaquin Basile, Joseph Bortolotti, Nancy Cardenas, Logan Graham, Casey Hartfiel, Nikoletta Rasso, Peyton Schrag, Brittany Schweiger, and Kaitlyn Woodman. Rising sophomores are Trevor Buhr, Lindsay Hartup, Aly Skovzek, and Zachary Weinstein.

Most of all, we want everyone to remember that these opportunities were generously provided by Grace Elizabeth Groner, graduate of Lake Forest College, Class of 1931, and resident of Lake Forest until her death at almost 101 years old.

L. Robert Pasquesi
William C. Marlatt
Trustees

Service Awards

The following awards were presented to the recipients at the Lake Forest College Honors Convocation the Friday before Commencement.



The awards and descriptions are as follows:

The Community Service Award is given to a student who earned distinction while volunteering at a community organization. This year's Community Service Award was presented by Kay Marlatt to Elizabeth Bulley for her work at the Gorton Community Center, Montessori School of Lake Forest, Sheridan School, and the Grace ELizabeth Groner Foundation.

Elizabeth will be continuing her service through a Bridge Program in London. Elizabeth will be focusing on educational programming at a nonprofit organization in London.



The National Service Award is given to a student who earned distinction while volunteering for a national organization. This year's National Service Award was presented by Daniela Resendiz, Director, to Akua Agyei for her work with Andean Aid and Bright Hope.

Akua will be continuing her service through a Bridge Program in London. Akua will be working with the finance team to understand how regeneration projects develop.



The International Service Award is given to a student who earned distinction while volunteering to serve people around the world. This year's International Service Award was presented by William Marlatt, Trustee, to Luis Carlos Beltrán for his work at the Monteverde Institute and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama.

Luis Barlos Beltrán will be continuing his service through a Bridge Program which will allow him to conduct research at the Galapagos Islands and the Monteverde Institute in beautiful Costa Rica.



Congratulations Elizabeth, Akua, and Luis. Your unconditional commitment to service has been inspirational to your fellow Groner Recipients and all of those around you.





Grace Elizabeth Groner Senior Celebration

The Grace Elizabeth Groner Senior Celebration is held the Thursday before Commencement. GEGF Trustee, William Marlatt, his wife, Kathryn, and the GEGF Director, Daniela Resendiz greet the Groner Recipients and their families.

carrying on Grace’s legacy of service to others.

The Foundation Trustees and Director enjoy sharing Grace’s life story with the Groner Recipients and their families.

Resendiz, revealed a small surprise she had prepared- a video with images of each GEGF graduating senior.

gratitude towards Grace Groner for the experiences she made possible.



The purpose of the gathering is to honor the graduating Groner Recipients who are about to become one of Grace’s Fellows. The Groner Recipients share with other Recipients and their families the unique opportunities which were provided by Grace’s generosity. They reflect on the learning experience and satisfaction of



William Marlatt, Trustee, and life-long friend of Grace Groner, reminisced about Grace’s hopes and wishes for the students of Lake Forest College. The Foundation has grown to support over ninety students in the past four years. Mr. Marlatt took the opportunity to reflect how each Groner Recipient has ensured that Grace Groner’s wishes are fulfilled. After this introduction, GEGF Director, Daniela



The Senior Celebration also serves as a pinning ceremony. As a Groner Recipient becomes an alumnus of Lake Forest College, he or she becomes one of Grace’s Fellows. The Recipients are presented with a gold “G” pin that is worn on their gowns at Commencement. As each Groner Recipient was presented with a pin, he or she shared the opportunities that were made possible by Grace Groner. Parents expressed their



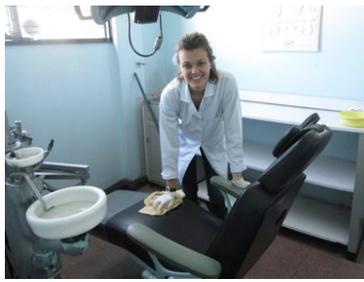
The evening was a joyful occasion with many hugs and smiles.



Grace Fellow volunteers at Maria Auxiliadora By Victoria Egedus

A common phrase spoken by Cost Ricans is “pura vida”- pure life. It is used in many senses, such as to say: hello, nice to see you, how are you, nice to meet you, goodbye, later, all is well, no problem, it is all good. The phrase embodies a level of tranquility and peace that is maintained as an integral part of the culture. Having lived in this country for 12 months, there are many topics I could choose for a final reflection. If I had to choose one word, it is purity.

the give with the take, the more whole we become.



Working with poor migrants has given me a glimpse of how humans could be without Western culture influencing our thoughts. At the core, these people living in poverty are loving, family oriented, happy creatures. They overcome many difficulties and keep strong. It has shown me that we all inherently expect and deserve respect. I couldn't have enjoyed working with people who volunteered their time for the poor more than I did. My coworkers inspired me every day, and every morning I looked forward to going to work at Maria Auxiliadora. In that respect I couldn't have been more blessed.



Living on a mountain in the forest, the timeless rules of nature have taught me the beauty of purity and balance with one's environment. Nature solicits a respectful cycle of give and take. A lack of balance in give and take leads to unfulfilling sentiments, and the more we match



One of the main goals I accomplished in being here for a year has been to prepare myself to help Spanish speaking patients when I am a medic in the States. I am happy to look back at this goal from a year ago and identify how much closer I am to filling that role. The “purity” I will take away from this experience is the purity of being a helper and an aid to those in need. I have taken a step toward a diversified goal and the greater interests of humanitarian work in many ways, in many forms and definitions.

This year has changed me in many ways. I am very grateful to the Foundation and Grace. I hope that in future generations, as social consciousness and globalization progresses, people will reminisce that our time period lacked the common

knowledge of comprehending and honestly working toward the justice of higher equality in the distribution of resources for all living creatures (namely humans) on this Earth.



Maybe that is just wishful, idealistic thinking, but in this day and age, the statistical figures are exuberantly disproportionate. I am grateful to be in the top 10% of the world, but I also know that my happiness is not contingent upon an increasing salary. Comfortable is good for me. I am eternally grateful to the Grace Elizabeth Groner Foundation for sending me to Central America where I have been able to see with my own two eyes what the real world is like; and to develop a more realistic understanding of “wealth,” “richness,” and “poverty.” I hope this knowledge sticks with me forever.

Living on the U.S. Mexican Border

By Nancy Cardenas

First of all, I want to thank everyone from the Grace Groner Foundation for giving me the opportunity to be part of Lake Forest's Border Studies Program and live in Arizona and Mexico for two and a half weeks. Living in Arizona and Mexico was a unique experience because it was the first time I ever became part of a community that volunteers and helps people on both sides of the U.S and Mexico border. Volunteering and being part of the community helped me become more aware about immigration and economic issues that affect families in both sides of the border. Now that I am back home, I will share these experiences in my community of Evanston and Lake Forest College.

I met a lot of people that have struggled in poverty, had their freedom taken away, and have been separated from their families. Despite their conditions and experiences, the majority talked to me with a smile. Smiling is something that we sometimes do to hide our emotions. There were times where I could not smile and wanted to cry. It was hard to listen to the experiences of migrants who struggled through the desert to get to the U.S. Some explained how dangerous it is to cross. There were days where I cried and struggled with having hope. I witnessed how two women and two children walked towards the U.S border and once they crossed to the U.S, border patrol caught them. I witnessed how seventy people from Mexico and Central America were shackled and pat on the shoulder by pathetic lawyers that would then tell them "good luck" as they left court to live in detention centers for 30 to 180 days. I met a young thirteen year old boy and three teenage girls from Agua Prieta who were living in a home with group C.R.E.E.D.A, a rehabilitation center for people that are addicted to drugs. A

lot people held their tears. I held my tears but now when I tell people the lives of the people that I met, I release them.

The people that I met and the work I did with the community reminded me of the strength of solidarity. This is more than just charity and listening to people's experiences. Working with others to help others and find solutions to economic, social, and political problems is important. That is something that I will now try to embrace in my own community. It is time for people to unite and remember that our biggest enemy is ourselves. Our biggest enemy is what we fear, and that fear should not make us weaker but stronger.

