



Pre-departure expectations from an Irish Youth Group preparing to Volunteer with [CATO](#) at the Lot Children's Home (Orphanage) in Ghana. We will bring you more about their stories and experience in Ghana.

August 9, 2006
Cultural & Academic Travel Org.
Volunteer Programmes.
www.catointl.org



Well my name is Dominic [REDACTED] 38 years olds and I will be the group leader for the Irish youth.

Why am I coming?

The young people came up with the idea last year and had asked me if I could come along and offer the support they need as this is the first time for them to travel to Ghana and do this kind of work. Two of the young people have never been out of Ireland.

We have worked very hard of the past year to raise money for this project and have reached our target. We have 12 boxes of equipment to bring over for the children which contains clothes, toys, books and first aid. The young people are hoping that all the packages arrive safe to make the children happy.

I have been doing youth work for 20 years now and have travelled many parts of the world as part of work and also my holidays, but this trip I am really excited about as I know it will be a great experience for the young people and myself.

The young people you will love so much. They are very supportive and helpful in the youth club and they just talk about the trip to Ghana every day I meet them. They even have all the boxes filled and closed ready for the trip. The children at the Orphanage will be so happy when they meet the group and will be so sad when they go.

This will be a life time experience for the Irish youth and something they will never forget. I hope that we can all be one big family and share our culture together.

Dominic



My name is Blathnaid [REDACTED]. Its an Irish name and means 'little flower' in English. I am a female and am 18 years old. I come from a family of seven and have a dog named 'Kunta' who is named after the African figure 'Kunta Kinte'.

I am currently still at secondary school, studying for my A-Levels and in September I plan to go to University to study law or become a teacher of History. Although most of my time is spent on my studies, when I'm free I love to be with my friends and family. I really enjoy spending my spare time at 'Youth first' youth club as I feel it has really helped develop me as a person. Since joining the club I have not only become more confident but I have also met great friends, whom I



love to be with. More over 'Youth first' has made my dream of volunteering come true, this is something which I believe everyone should seek to achieve. I only hope that the Ghanaian children see me for the happy and eager person I am whilst there. I hope to develop a good relationship whilst working with the children as it is something I thoroughly enjoy. I also hope to take home with me an appreciation of different cultures and lifestyles and learn that 'our way is not the only way';.

As an 18 year old I love to read and as a History student I am eager to learn about world wide issues. I hope that my time in Africa will not only give me a wider scope into different world issues but also make me a more grateful person.

Blathnaid



My name is Gavin [REDACTED]. I am 17 years old. I am a male. My hobbies in life are simple. I enjoy hanging out with my friends, reading, acting and also meeting new people. My hopes in life are to finish my A-Levels and to move on to University to study youth work. I think travelling to Africa will give me some experience to do with youth work as I will be working with young people in orphanages. My other hopes are to make this African experience a success as well as learn new things about their culture and their lives.

My skills in life would be that I'm a good listener and talker. I would also say that mentally I'm a strong person. I am also great with meeting new people from different backgrounds and races as I deal with these people all the time at my work. I would also say that I don't judge people from who they are or what they are as I wouldn't like it done to myself.

In Ghana I hope to learn new things from the people in Ghana and to take this experience back and share it with the community. I think this experience would change parts of me for the good and I can't wait to go and experience a chance of a lifetime.

Look forward to meeting you and thanks for letting us come and work with us.

Thanks
Gavin



Hello, my name is Martina [REDACTED]. My friends call me Tina. I am and 18 year old girl, who lives in the Bogside, Derry. My hobbies would be going out walks, as this relaxes me and going shopping. Another hobby would be doing volunteer work in my local youth club. The reason I do this is because I find it very rewarding and I am pleased to know that I am a great listener, who tries my best to help others. I love the task of problem solving, therefore I feel that this is one of my skills. I am also a very open person in which any one can talk to and I am very good at keeping things confident.

My hopes in life are few but valuable, these are good health of me and my family, to become a primary school teacher, as this helps me to teach children values in life. I hope that I treat my friends the way they deserve to be treated and lastly I hope their indulgence people around me in the right way.



My hopes for Ghana are to be able to get to know the people and children that I come to contact with, to learn more about their culture and also to share the information on my culture, to learn to appreciate what I have received in life and finally to come back as an informative of Ghana and spread their good name. Thanks for giving me this opportunity.

Tina



Hello my name is Derryn [REDACTED] I am 16, I am a male I come from a family of six my mum and dad, two brothers and 1 sister. I have a dog-called Max he is like the seven member of the family. I am currently at the last year at my school and studying for my GCSEs, In September I am planning to go back to school and study for my A levels. Then after that go to university and get my degree in youth work. My hobbies include going up the town with my friends, acting and sometimes reading.

I am a down to earth person with a bubbly personality. I am kind, generous and helpful. I love chilling out at the weekends with my friends. I am a volunteer at my local youth club for several years. Through the time I spent at the youth club I took part in various projects such as making a board game about bullying, computer courses, health safety, sex education, road safety, the youth café and arts and crafts. I enjoy music such as hip-hop, dance and rave.

My hopes and dreams for the future is to become a youth worker and start a campaign about bullying since I was a victim of it. I would also like to help the young people with fill their hopes and dreams just like my youth leader did for me, about the board game and the Ghana project he always stood by us and supported us all the way, when we had our bad days he would always say think positive and this trip is going to be a life changing experience and I know it is.

From I started getting involved in the youth club I did so much and I achieved so much so I knew it was a time in my life to give something back to the community. I wanted to do something only a few people ever experience in their lives, something to look back on and feel proud of, something that I would carry through the rest of my life, so I knew going to a third world country and helping children in need was the right thing to do.

When I go to Ghana I hope to develop a good relationship whilst working with the children as it's something I always enjoy. I also hope to experience the different African cultures and lifestyles and learn that our way is not the only way. I hope to take this experience in Ghana and take it back and share with my family and community. I hope that my time in Ghana will not only give me a scope into the poverty and issues that exist in Ghana but will also make me a stronger person. I think this experience will have a great impact on me for the good and I just can't wait to go and experience a chance of a lifetime. I look forward to meeting everyone in the orphanage and thank you for this opportunity of a lifetime.

