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Ethics Seminar

31th, October, 2018

Romania diary

Day 1

Today, the 25th of October, is the day that we are departing Salzburg and going to Oradea, Romania, where we will build houses for people in need for four days. It will be a great bonding experience. However, I am a bit worried if our class will be able to develop some team skills and work together for a good cause. Everyone is excited to go and experience something that none of us have experienced before. We are all willing to try and develop better relations with one another because after all it is also one of the goals of this trip. The only thing that worries us at the moment is the long ride, which is 13 hours.

Day 2

The drive to Romania was very long and exhausting, but it was definitely worth it. Romania reminds me of Bulgaria and I have very warm feelings towards this country. I was happy to work with my friends in one group, yet I had the chance to work and communicate with people with whom I never interacted. I learned a lot about simple things in the job, which made me very proud of myself. Of course, most of the things were making me feel amazing because I knew that I was changing someone's life with my voluntary work. We also went to a traditional dinner where we got to try traditional Romanian and Hungarian food and we also danced traditional Romanian dancing, which is similar to Bulgarian dances.

Day 3

Most of us are exhausted after the first day at the build site, but we are still keeping it together because we know that we have such a short time to help with whatever we can. Yesterday, we went to a traditional restaurant and we had the pleasure to experience some of the culture there. It was very similar to Bulgarian. Unfortunately, we were so tired, that we couldn't enjoy it fully. However, we cannot wait for the second day because we were going to work with zement, which was very interesting for most of us.

Day 4

Today, we will be half of the day on the construction site. Even though, all of us are exhausted, we are willing to give all of our strength because we really enjoyed the work we could get done and we were more that excited to meet some of the kids that we were building for. They gave us a "visual reason" to work for and we felt that it was much more heart-warming after meeting the kids and finding out how amazing , innocent, and king they are. It was an Unforgettable experience, one that my classmates and I will never forget.

Essay

I never believed that I would say that, but I have to admit that I am a spoiled person. After going to Romania, I realized how many things in my everyday life, I took for granted.

The things that I saw there, and the experience that I gathered, changed me forever. At the beginning I was worried and excited, however, by the end I was mostly proud because of the work I had done and the relationships that I had developed. The trip to Romania completely changed my partnerships, my working habits, and my attitude towards many things, comparing to how I felt towards the trip before we left for this adventure.

Before we left for Romani, I cannot lie, I was so terrified how this trip would go, considering that not that many people communicate with each other. Our whole class had separated into groups of friends, which didn't give us the opportunity to communicate with people whom we don't spend a lot of time with on a daily basis. However, I would have to admit that I was so surprised that our whole class got together for the good cause and we proved to each other that talking to others, besides our best friends, is not that bad after all. Even after the trip, the whole eleventh grade went out together to lunch, and we had an amazing time. It is visible in most of our classes that we have a better bonding between each other and we feel more comfortable with one another in the classroom.

One of the reasons that our group could develop such good relationships between one another, is the work habits that we all developed, with the help of our supervisors. Before I tried building anything, I thought to myself that it couldn't be that hard. After the trip to Romania, I realized that I was so wrong. At first it was horrific, but then it started getting better. Before the trip, I was thinking that they shouldn't make us go to Romania and make us build houses because we wouldn't be able to do anything. I was once again proved wrong. With all the help from the people there, we were able to develop some basic skills about building a house.

Making better relationships with my classmates and developing new working habits were both a great experience. However, the thing that Romania changed the most in me, was

my attitude. As I said, I never would have called myself spoiled, but after seeing and understanding the reasons why we were there and why we were building the houses made me realize how privileged I was, and that I should use whatever I can to support other people who do not live in the same environment as me. The experience that I gathered in Romania, made me realize that we are not building houses for a good university transcript, but for the idea to change someone's life and to try and give them something that they struggled to get, or in some cases, they never had.

Overall, Romania trip gave me angst before we departed Salzburg due to my worries that were mainly connected to my class's relationships and my working abilities. However, I am more than proud to say that I left Romania with a more positive and motivated attitude to help others. I was definitely a life changing experience for me considering the fact that most of us do not encounter environments like these every day. In Romania most of my classmates and me changed in a positive way. What is more amazing about this, that we also had the change not only to change ourselves, but we could also help others in need and change their lives for the better.