

KAPPA ALPHA

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MAGAZINE



**GIVE TO
LEAD,
GIVE TO
LEARN.**

**SUPPORTING THE NEXT
GENERATION OF LEADING WOMEN**
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ONE MONTH AFTER COLLEGE GRADUATION, **KELSEY ULLOM** AND **RACHEL VINCIGUERRA**, ΓΔ/OHIO WESLEYAN, TOOK ONE-WAY FLIGHTS TO LES CAYES, HAITI, TO SERVE AS VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS IN THE PROJECT HOPE ORPHANAGE. BOTH HAD VISITED FOR ONE-WEEK VOLUNTEER TRIPS DURING COLLEGE THROUGH THE HAITIOWU PROGRAM, AND BOTH KNEW THEY WANTED TO DO MORE. THROUGH THEIR COMMITMENT TO SPREADING THE WIDEST INFLUENCE FOR GOOD, THEY ARE...

LEADING WOMEN

BY GRETA HASS SNELL, B/INDIANA

More than 250 volunteers from 15 different US states travel to the Pwoje Espwa (Project Hope) orphanage each year. These volunteers help support the more than 500 students who live at Espwa along with an additional 500 who come to the orphanage for school each day. Their experiences on the Ohio Wesleyan service team, as well as their Theta connection, convinced **KELSEY ULLOM** and **RACHEL VINCIGUERRA** to apply for volunteer coordinator positions.

“Since my first visit to Espwa, I knew I wanted to give my time and energy in a bigger way,” said Ullom. “Our service teams accomplish so much in a week-long visit, but I always left wanting to do more. I realized that if I wanted to do more, there was no better time than now. I knew living and working in Haiti would give me important perspective and experience and also open doors to other opportunities for me in the international development field.”

Ullom and Vinciguerra’s responsibilities are constantly in flux. They manage the guest house at the orphanage in addition to communicating with volunteer groups and working with them to plan an itinerary for their time at Espwa.

“Knowing that we are in this together makes this job,

which can be very challenging at times, significantly better and exponentially more manageable,” said Vinciguerra. “Any problems we face, we face together. It also helps to know that we share a lot of the same fundamental values of service and integrity.”

Ullom and Vinciguerra inspire others by living out their personal mission statements. Vinciguerra describes her mission as being open and responsive to the inherent worth of every person. Ullom’s also focuses on being open.

“I strive to live a life of acceptance and open-mindedness, so that I can learn from others and gain new perspective,” she said. “I value the importance of finding commonalities across cultures, beliefs, backgrounds, and ethnicities. I want to always live a life of discovery and exploration, questioning, and curiosity. I find deep worth in my independence and self-ambition, but also in my support systems and positive surroundings.”

Their experiences at Espwa are preparing them for their next adventure as leading women, but for now, they are ensuring that children at Espwa know they are loved and encouraged in their education, personal growth, and artistic talents. ◇

KELSEY ULLOM (left) and **RACHEL VINCIGUERRA**, (right) in Haiti. Ullom served the Gamma deuterion chapter as chief executive officer; Vinciguerra as chief education officer.

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