



# Bringing the World Together

THE UP WITH PEOPLE NEWSLETTER

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## A Message from Tommy

Dear Alumni and Friends,

For more than a year now, I have been sharing with you the new model for Up with People in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Though our mission is the same, we have to continually develop our vision for the organization. We must always stay relevant to the times in which we live and to the people that we serve. Our business model must also always be current and cutting-edge. Up with People's new business model engages corporate sponsors, non-profit organizations, and individual citizens at the local level to create and inspire positive, lasting change worldwide. Over the course of the past several months, we have seen our new model emerge. It is inspiring. It is hopeful. And it is relevant. Take a look at one of the cities Cast A 2006 visited during their North American tour:

*Sioux Falls, South Dakota (September 4<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup>,2006)*

- The cast built a new playground in one day that will be part of the Sioux Falls community for decades to come.
- The cast built a wheelchair ramp for the *Casa de Carlitos* home where children from Mexico are given critical medical treatment.
- The Up with People show was performed to a sold-out audience of over 2,000 people.
- \$50,000 were raised through show ticket sales for two local non-profit organizations.
- Over 35 booths were open after the show promoting local non-profit organizations and giving the audience practical tools for how to become involved in their community.
- 35 alumni attended the alumni reception after show.

Sioux Falls is just one city out of seven in North America where Up with People's Cast A 2006 participants have made a lasting difference. As an organization that strives to prepare the youth of today to be global leaders for tomorrow, our participants are actively engaged in leadership that happens through service, inspiration, and empowerment.

Let me unpack the facts above to give you a complete understanding of how the new model is impacting communities we visit. In the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, much of our community service centered around *helpful* projects that were restricted by our short visits in each city. In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Up with People engages our student participants in doing *influential* service that touches the core of community needs. Our goal is for our service to have a more lasting impact because we have the opportunity to devote more time in each city, we partner with local organizations, and we involve community members in our projects.

The new Up with People Show has the same spirit, excitement and message that we all remember from our forty year history, however, the new theme of the show is taking the spotlight off ourselves and shining it on our community partners. We are in the business of not only training young people in global leadership as a foundation of world peace, but we are also in the business of partnering with and promoting non-profits and community groups. We do more than just raise awareness and money (through show tickets) for our community partners; we are about motivating people to action and inspiring people to be engaged in their own communities.

*Continued on page 2*

### Upcoming ALUMNI RECEPTIONS with TOMMY SPAULDING

Raleigh, NC, Oct 19

Contact: Paul Kartcheske  
[paul.kartcheske@duke.edu](mailto:paul.kartcheske@duke.edu)

Brussels, Belgium, Nov 4

(Cast A 2006 tour city)

Mexico City, Mexico,

Nov 11

Contact: Sary Garcia  
[president@uwpiaa.org](mailto:president@uwpiaa.org)

Miami, FL, Dec 10

### All Japanese Tour Alumni Receptions

will take place  
immediately following  
the show in each city.

For information, please visit  
[www.upwithpeople.org/  
program\\_schedule.htm](http://www.upwithpeople.org/program_schedule.htm).



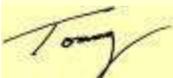
Message from Tommy *Continued from page 1*

After the show in Sioux Falls, all 2,000 people in attendance walked out of the auditorium and into a Community Fair where over 35 local non-profit organizations had set up informational booths. For over an hour, people who had been inspired by the show mingled at the fair and were given tangible tools for how to become involved in their own community. In this way, the lasting effect of Up with People is not only manifested in the service projects our students carry out, but it is also embodied in a more powerful way by empowering hundreds and perhaps thousands to roll up their sleeves and become servant leaders.

As I was watching the last few minutes of the Show in Sioux Falls, I realized that over the course of one week, I had just seen the model work. I had seen our cast members build the playground and wheelchair ramp. I looked behind me and saw Cast A's standing ovation. I saw the corporate sponsor from Sioux Falls present a \$50,000 check to our two local community partners, and I fell speechless when he later turned to me and said, "I have never seen such an incredible impact on our community."

Fellow alumni and friends, the model is beginning to work, and I believe we cannot rest on the success of just one city. Your support is invaluable as we build a base of corporate sponsors, prospective students, and donors. Please consider helping us in one or more of these critical areas as we seek to inspire a spirit of service and collaboration around the world.

Sincerely yours,



Tommy Spaulding  
President & CEO  
Cast D 87



A Few Words from Kansas City Community Partners . . .

*Thank you for the opportunity to present at the Up with People presentation last night. I received 12 inquiries into our services and program and made some new connections. Again, thank you.*

*- Coletta Green, Crittenton Children's Center*

*What a great show last night! Thank you for the tickets. We brought all of the girls from our Teens Against Poverty group. They had a great time. Several came away from the show saying, "I want to do that—why do we have to wait until we are 18?" Congratulations! Please keep us in mind if the tour is back in Kansas City.*

*- Sherri Israel*

*I just wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed the show last night. I think you are all doing a wonderful job, and I wish you the best in your travels. Thank you for giving Camp Fire the opportunity to be a part of Up with People.*

*- Lisa Eiken, Heartland Council of Campfire USA*

## Student Spotlight



Beata is a native of Vellinge, Sweden. She has a diverse background including 15 months in the military and college-level studies in leadership, behavioral sciences, and human resources. Her brother, Peder, traveled with the August '05 WorldSmart Crew.

*What has been one of the most memorable moments you have had in the United States so far?*

### Beata Hansson

Meeting all these wonderful people - cast members, staff members, host families and community members - is something that I will remember forever. Hearing stories and backgrounds about people from different countries is an interesting way to learn about other cultures and lifestyles. Also the fact that I am part of a group that is making a difference in the world by participating in community work is really important to me.

*What is one thing you have learned about American culture?*

I had a lot of stereotypes about the USA before I arrived here for the first time. But I only have good memories about the country and the people so far. Of course there are a lot of differences, but I also think there are a lot of similarities with my country, Sweden. My experience here in the US is that Americans are very open and friendly. My stereotypes have changed a lot. Also, traveling to different states has been a great experience. To me, it sometimes feels like every state is its own country.

*What has been the greatest challenge for you as you have had to adjust to American culture?*

I can't say that it has been too hard to adjust to American culture. But I have learned some small things such as eating with only one fork. And I heard from one of my host families that it could seem rude to eat with both a fork and a knife at the same time.

*Tell me about one of the most meaningful Community Impact projects you have done.*

In Sioux Falls, South Dakota, some other people from the cast and I had a chance to go visit "Hope Haven", which is a nonprofit organization that collects used wheelchairs, works on them so that they can be used again, and sends them to countries in need of them. We were given a tour around the building by the founder, Mark Richards, and we also had a chance to help them a little bit with working on the wheelchairs. For me it was very interesting, and I felt very inspired by the fact that I could help somehow. When I left "Hope Haven" that day, I just felt like going home to Sweden and collecting wheelchairs to send to developing countries where they are needed very much.

*What are you looking forward to about the Japanese tour?*

The fact that Japan, and Japanese culture, is so far away from my own is so exciting. I'm looking forward to the challenge with the language barrier and how to overcome it. I'm looking forward to the food, to seeing all the beautiful buildings, to seeing how Japanese people live their daily lives and much more. The city I look forward to the most is Toyota, where we will visit the factory and to meet Dr. Toyoda himself. It will be a memory for life just as everything else in the Up with People program.

## A Host Family Story

I signed up to be host parents on a whim and having no clue what was going to happen. I finally told my husband what we were going to do (I have found that it can be easier to ask for forgiveness than permission).



*Wouter cooking for Becky and family*

Carlos and Wouter each cooked a meal for us which was GREAT!!! Both really do know how to cook. During our conversations they found out that it was my husband's birthday. After only being in the same house for 2-3 days they helped me plan a surprise birthday party for my husband "Up with People" style. I was amazed by their gesture for only knowing us a short time. And the party was great - I met other Up with People cast members and their host parents and some host siblings. My husband was blown away by all of it.

Having the boys in our home for a week was an experience I will not forget. And I will do it again in a heartbeat. I NEVER thought that one week would change me, but it did.

The first Monday night, I had every confidence in the world that I would not get attached in a week nor would I become emotional when they left. That was not who I was.

I dreaded the following Monday when I took them to the bus. I watched them run around and get stuff loaded, and gave them their lunches and snacks for the cast. I hugged Wouter goodbye and I started to cry. Hugged Carlos and kept crying. I cried off and on all that day; I was an emotional wreck. I hated to see them go but I was so excited for them. I knew they were going to have an amazing journey.



*"Happy Birthday" in eight languages*

Carlos and Wouter changed my life and made a huge impact in just 7 days.

Becky Buckner  
Gardner, Kansas

*The cast members and staff of Up with People would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all our host families. Over the past forty years, Up with People participants have stayed with over 450,000 host families. We are incredibly grateful to them for opening up their homes and hearts to us.*

## Student Spotlight



**Yamil Torres**

Yamil is from Aguascalientes, Mexico, where he has done extensive volunteer work with youth. He enjoys communicating with people from other cultures and has traveled throughout Europe and South America. Yamil plans to earn his MBA in Canada after touring with Up with People.

*What has been one of the most memorable moments you have had in the United States so far?*

Performing in the “Dakota Bowl” really gave me this feeling of working as a team to bring the world together and celebrate diversity. It was awesome to see the audience of almost 10,000 people in that stadium in Sioux Falls really get involved in our performance at that half time show.

*What is one thing you have learned about American culture?*

That most of the Americans are very nice. Before joining the program, I had the wrong idea that most people in the USA had no family values and that they were mean to people from different countries. My host families have been amazing and have made me feel that I am at home.

*What has been the greatest challenge for you as you have had to adjust to American culture?*

To speak in English! At the beginning it was very difficult for me to express my ideas in another language, but with the help of everybody, I have been able to increase my communication skills.

*Tell me about one of the most meaningful CI projects you have done.*

I worked in “Casa de Carlitos” in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, which is a place where they take care of Mexican children who are sick and in need of very special medical care. To be aware that I was doing something for my people back in Mexico really made me give my best in that CI project. We did a lot of work helping remodel the house, building a wheelchair ramp, cleaning the garden, painting walls, and fixing a swing for the children. My crew of more than 30 cast members and some of the staff, together with some students of one of the local high schools, worked so very hard for almost 7 hours that day. What also made it very special was that an alumni of UWP was the main contact as director of “Casa de Carlitos” and “Los Cabos Foundation” one of our main community partners in that city.

*What are you looking forward to about the Japanese tour?*

I’m looking forward to learning the most about that amazing culture, I can’t wait to get to Japan and experience life there, staying with host families and learn from their culture and show mine.

I’m really enjoying every single moment of this incredible program!

## The North America Tour in Review

**NORTH PLATTE, NEBRASKA ~ KANSAS CITY, KANSAS ~ MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA  
MANKATO, MINNESOTA ~ SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA ~ WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN**

- Total attendance for six public shows: 8,320
- Total alumni attendance for tour city receptions: 242
- Number of Host Families: 243
- Total amount raised for community partners through show ticket sales: \$67,334
- Number of community service hours provided by cast members: 4,125
- Amount the Harry Meyering Center of Mankato saved due to the cast's work with them: \$16,000
- Number of meals the cast produced with Harvesters, a Kansas City food bank: 78,900
- Amount American Royal of Kansas City saved due to the cast's work with them: \$8600
- Extent of tour: 2071.6 miles through six states in six weeks



### A Few Words from Dakota King, Sioux Falls Presenting Sponsor

*I can't say enough good things about Up with People's time in Sioux Falls. The community service they did truly gave back to the community and created a lot of awareness for the non-profit partners. The cast was pleasant and excited to be here in Sioux Falls. Everyone I spoke with loved the show, and people even came in from out of town to see it.*



*-Cindy Walsh  
Director of Human Resources/Public Relations*

## Cast A 2006 in Japan

Omura, Nagasaki • Ueda, Nagano • Suita, Osaka  
Uda, Nara • Toyota, Aichi • Tama, Tokyo



## Up with People in Europe

In just 4 weeks, Cast A 2006 will arrive in Europe. The European staff is very excited to host them for their final six weeks on our continent. Together with the Local Organizing Committees, we are working hard to make it a unique and successful tour.

The first tour city will be Brussels, headquarters of the European Union. In fact, cast arrival will take place the week of Halloween, and we have a special Halloween surprise in store for the them.

The Up with People show premiere in Europe will take place November 4th in Brussels. There will also be a *European alumni reception with many alumni from various European countries immediately following the show*. Additional alumni receptions will be held in all the European tour cities. The show in Brussels will provide an exceptional welcome to Cast A 2006 and launch the Up with People European tour. We are expecting many old and new friends of Up with People to attend, and local media is already eager to report on this unique event. In addition, The Board of Governors for the Up with People International Alumni Association will be meeting in Brussels on the 4th and 5th of November and attending the show as well.

The European tour schedule is:

Brussels, Oct 30-Nov 5  
Nijmegen, Nov 6-12  
Rostock, Nov 13-19  
Cologne, Nov 20-26  
Bern, Nov 27-Dec 3  
Modena, Dec 3-10

Please keep in mind that we are organizing informational meetings on show days in each tour city for students who are interested in joining the program!

Looking forward to meeting up with you during our European tour!