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THE IMPACT OF UP WITH PEOPLE

One Cast B 2015 participant shares a story about how UWP helped bring a group of classmates together.

Some of the most impactful community action projects I think we are given the opportunity to do as participants of Up with People (UWP) is going into high schools and interacting with students in their classrooms. We share parts of our culture. We help them transform their own classroom into a safe and relaxed environment through a series of team building exercises and games. Then we take the time to dig deep with an activity called Take A Stand. Normally, our classroom sessions last 45-60 minutes.

However, in Toluca, we were given the chance to work in one classroom with about 25 students for three hours. This gave me and my facilitation partners so much freedom to have fun and really start to build personal relationships with each student. Like normal, we played Take A Stand with this group. Take A Stand is an activity during which students are asked a question and then asked to physically move on one side of the room to demonstrate their opinion. As time passes the questions become harder and more difficult to answer.



Fia Binford (front) snaps a selfie with her group of students in Toluca, Mexico, after finishing an educational and cultural workshop.

The students in our group became very passionate about their stances and were sparking some amazing conversations. After three hours, I not only left the classroom with at least 15 new Facebook friends and 20 new Instagram followers, but also with a sense of satisfaction that we had had such a successful workshop.

For me, the most impactful “wow” moment was not during the class. It took place after lunch when I sat with the group. I was proud to hear that a majority of the students had applied and interviewed to be in future UWP casts. One of the boys from the class turned to me and said, “What you did today was amazing. In one day you came in and created something that has never existed here. You don’t understand. People here are so judgmental and we have never been able to have these conversations in class.” He and the others in the group went on to explain how much the workshop had impacted and inspired them. After they told me this, I realized how special the moment was. The entire experience with this class reminded me why I burn with passion for education and conversation.

This is the impact UWP is making and we are doing it right.

UWP offers scholarships to support students every semester. Thanks to your gifts during this past fiscal year, we were able to award many scholarships to deserving students in Cast B 2014 and Cast A 2015.

UWP's scholarship program is made possible through the generous support of individuals and foundations. Every gift has an impact on the life of a student; from \$10 to \$1,000. We depend on your support to run our program. Please help impact more students with your gift!

To make a gift:

[CLICK HERE](#)

STUDENT PROFILE

Meet Wuo from Liberia, a member of Cast B 2015.

How did you first hear about UWP?

My sister was in the United States at the time and was helping a friend fundraise money for his UWP tuition. She thought it was something I'd like to do.

What aspects of your culture are you teaching members of Cast B 2015?

I'm teaching the cast about friendship. Liberians are very friendly. We embrace foreigners and want to make them feel at home. I enjoy answering any questions my cast mates have about my culture.

What is it like living with host families?

It's wonderful. I used to live in different families before UWP so I'm used to it. I have so many good memories! For example, with my first host family in Denver, I tried Mexican food and visited the Rocky Mountains for the first time. In Orlando, I tried alligator tail!

What is your role in the current show?

I am a storyteller in the show. I tell stories in my native language.

What is one unique experience you've had so far?

I was hosted alone in Melbourne, FL. My host dad took me to church and everybody spoke Spanish. The mass was also in Spanish. I invited everyone at church to the show and a lot of them came!



Support  Up with People.

Through the support of many generous donors, Up with People is able to provide a meaningful opportunity to young people who are making a positive difference around the world. We are grateful for your generous gift!



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“TRAVEL THE WORLD” WITHOUT LEAVING YOUR HOME

Read how Katie Bulmer and her family welcomed in strangers and gained two new “daughters.”

My husband and I saw a flyer at a local coffee shop advertising the Up with People concert. I looked it up online and realized the students live in host homes while they are in town. It seemed like a fun event but at this point we were simply thinking of getting tickets to the show.

The next morning at our local farmer’s market we met Up with People’s Promotional Representatives and learned more about the program. My husband—who is usually hesitant about these things—said "Let's be a host family!" I was surprised at his quick response to sign up but was very excited about the opportunity. The next few weeks were full of anticipation and excitement. We really knew very little about what we had signed up for.

When the day came to finally meet the two young ladies who would be staying with us for a week, our hesitations were immediately quieted. Our new "daughters" greeted us with hugs and smiles galore. As soon as they got to our home they started singing and dancing with our two little ones. We immediately knew we were in for a fun week.

Ida, our "daughter" from Sweden would be celebrating her 19th birthday while she was with us! I knew if one of our own daughters were half a world away on her birthday I would hope the people she would be staying with would take good care of her. With that in mind, we had my young daughters bring her breakfast in bed while we played YouTube videos of “Happy Birthday” in her native tongue. We served her some of her favorites including Swedish meatballs for dinner that night. And of course made her blow out the candles and give her a small gift.

The rest of our week was filled with swimming, a visit to our church, and we even went to a yoga class. These young women were so adaptable to any situation. I'm sure that is true of every cast member as each week looks so different for them on their travels. Ida and Delaney, our other “daughter” from Canada, were so grateful and thankful for anything I cooked, and any activity we planned. Our five and seven year-old daughters looked up to their new "big sisters" and enjoyed the free piano lessons, swimming lessons, and "concerts" around the dinner table.



Katie (back row, second from the left) smiles with her husband, two daughters, and their UWP host students, Ida Berggren and Delaney Gunn.



Ida (back, center) and Delaney (right) play with the Bulmer daughters and their dog.

We truly fell in love with these young ladies while they were here. I am not sure if it was the genuine way they loved our own children or the great talks we had in the evening but getting to know these beautiful young women was an opportunity I will never forget. It also opened our eyes to the great big world in which we live. People don't even realize it but when you live in the same area for a while you tend to think your "world" is where you live. Visitors from hundreds and even thousands of miles away reminded us of the millions of cultures, languages, and simply "the ways of doing things" that exist all over the world.

We still talk about our Up with People experience with anyone who will listen to us. It has impacted us in ways we never thought possible. We now actively look to engage with friends from different cultures around us. We also signed up to be a part of our local colleges' extended family program. This program allows international students to partner with an American family while they are in school. We are so excited to continue to "travel the world" without leaving home.

I can't say enough good things about these amazing young women who were in our lives for a short week but their impact will last a lifetime. 'Journey On,' Ida and Delaney! Your Statesboro family loves you!

Written by Katie Bulmer from Statesboro, GA; proud and enthusiastic UWP host mom.

50 *Up with People*

Save the Date

2016 Gala | Friday, March 18

The Westin | Westminster, CO

Additional details to follow.



A NEW STAR IS BORN

Get ready for UWP Jr., a day camp modeled after UWP for children ages eight to twelve.

First there was UWP, an international, educational, and performing arts program for young adults ages 18 through 29. Next came Camp UWP, a two-week experience in Harrisonburg, VA for youth ages 13 to 17. What comes next?

Enter UWP Jr., a global weeklong day camp experience for children ages eight to twelve. "The origin of both Camp UWP and UWP Jr. is about sharing the message of UWP to our youth world-wide by teaching about international awareness, leadership, and cultural diversity, and creating global citizens using performing arts as the vehicle," said Walter Belcher ('89C) from UWP Jr.

John Hall ('78D), founder of Camp Horizons in Harrisonburg, VA, was sparked into action after his UWP experience and felt the need to continue that forward momentum by sharing the many values of UWP with teenagers. That ignited the idea for Camp UWP in 2011 which spiraled into the creation of UWP Jr. this year. John's 30 years of camp experience, combined with the leadership and passion of the UWP international staff and several UWP alumni, have helped to make these different camps a reality for so many around the world.

While at UWP Jr., children will enjoy learning songs and dances, volunteer with community action projects, and learn to use the arts as a vehicle to explore their own communities and the world. As its name suggests, UWP Jr. is consistent with the components of its parent UWP program: performing arts, leadership, service learning, and cultural awareness. At the end of each UWP Jr. session, participants will perform a 30-minute show which will address topics such as diversity, international awareness, and personal identity. "A great majority of the curriculum goals are the same; simply tailored to meet the needs of our campers' ages."

A unique element of UWP Jr. is that it can take place all over the world. The hope is that UWP alumni and friends will look to implement a UWP Jr. program in their own communities. Camp Directors, as the instructors will be called, will be provided with all of the materials necessary to execute a UWP Jr. wherever they live. A typical UWP Jr. program is structured to run Monday through Friday, starting at 8am and ending at 4pm. It can be held anywhere from two to six weeks throughout the year. The program can accommodate 40 children including one site director, two program leads, and up to four program staff.

The UWP Jr. program is set to launch during the summer of 2016.

"The foundation of what our children can become is laid in this age group," said Belcher. "To use the arts and community service as a means of developing life skills such as team work, cultural understanding, leadership, and communication skills can prove to be invaluable."

For more information about UWP Jr., visit www.upwithpeoplejr.org or email Walter Belcher at uwpjr@horizonsva.com.

50 YEARS OF UP WITH PEOPLE...
5 YEARS OF CAMP UP WITH PEOPLE
NOW...

a NEW STAR IS BORN!

 **UWP Jr.**
Up with People Junior

A global weeklong
day camp experience for the next
generation, ages 8-12
8-12

**Alumni! Become a Day
Camp Director**

Share your love of Up with People!
Give back to your community

Learn more at:

UpwithPeopleJr.org





CAST B 2015 AND CAST A 2016 TOUR SCHEDULES

[Check out where our current and upcoming casts will be traveling on their world tours!](#)

CAST B 2015

November 2—8, 2015
Neuchâtel, Switzerland

November 9—15, 2015
Weinfelden-Frauenfeld, Switzerland

November 16—22, 2015
Vaduz, Liechtenstein

November 23—29, 2015
Brussels, Belgium

50th Anniversary Event

November 30—December 10, 2015
Rome, Italy

CAST A 2016

January 15—February 14, 2016
Denver, CO
Staging and Orientation

February 15—21, 2016
Des Moines, Iowa

February 22—28, 2016
Chagrin Falls, OH

February 29—March 6, 2016
Watertown, SD

March 7—13, 2016
Sioux Falls, SD

March 14—20, 2016
Topeka, KS

March 21-27, 2016
Houston, TX

March 28—April 3, 2016
Mexico

April 4—April 10, 2016
Panchuca, Mexico

April 11—17, 2016
Mexico City, Mexico

50th Anniversary Event

April 18—24, 2016
Bermuda

April 25—May 1, 2016
Bermuda

May 2—8, 2016
Falkoping, Sweden

May 9—15, 2016
Copenhagen, Denmark

May 16—22, 2016
Helsingborg, Sweden

May 23—29, 2016
Hasselt, Belgium

May 30—June 7, 2016
Baar/Zug, Switzerland