

Profile of Kyra Zloch

Kyra Zloch is a perfect example of an activist; a person who campaigns about social and political change. Kyra is considered an activist because of the many mission trips she went on through her church youth group. Kyra travels around the world helping people that need help.

Kyra is a girl who I went to technical school with. She is 18 years old, and she is from a small town in Washington's Crossing PA. Kyra is a triplet, who has a brother and sister. She also has another brother that is not a triplet. The siblings were split up. Kyra and her sister lived with their one set of grandparents, and the brothers lived with their other grandmother. Kyra's parents were on to many drugs and too ill to take care of them. Kyra's grandparents taught her to be religious. She battled with depression growing up and found comfort in going to church youth group. Kyra's youth group conducts many trips to go to other poor States and countries to help them out. Today, Kyra is traveling all over the world helping people in need.

When Kyra was 13 years old, she started going on mission trips with her church youth group. They traveled from Washington D.C. to Texas to the Bahamas; all the way to Guatemala. Every year they go somewhere new. Although her grandparents influenced her to start going to church and she went on these trips with the church, she made the decision to go on the trips on her own. "I wanted to become something that was bigger than me. I wanted to make a difference", she said. Before Kyra went on her first mission trip, she was nervous. She didn't know what to expect when she got there. She was terrified of planes. She pulled all her fears and worries aside. In fact, Kyra was excited to see what God had in store for her during the time she had with the people that were struggling.

When Kyra arrived at the mission trips destinations, she found it to be very eye-opening. She said, “You never realize how much you take for granted until you get put in situations where you cannot have it.” The people she was helping were happy, even though they had little to nothing. The people in the Bahamas and Guatemala went to the bathrooms in carved out tree stumps. They appreciated everything they had and were not ungrateful for anything. No matter what happened to them everyday was a blessing. “It was amazing to see how God worked through them,” she added.

Although they were grateful for everything they had, Kyra still saw a lot of physical pain and suffering. There was a lot of poverty and illness without any supplies or anyone there to help them get better. The people in the villages would all come together to try and help to support one another. “No one was selfish! If one person had something that would help another person in the village, then it would be shared”. On the streets of Guatemala, Kyra saw kids playing soccer with each other and stray dogs with flees would follow them. People were always on the streets singing, dancing, and trying to sell goods. There was no direct plumbing you had to collect your own water. People of all ages had giant buckets of water on their heads. Kyra watched a lot of people walking around shoeless. The people there could not afford shoes, so they just walked around barefoot.

During the time she spent on these mission trips, she was constantly giving back. They helped to give them better living conditions by building them new houses. Playing with the kids on the streets was one of Kyra’s favorite parts! They played games like dominos and bingo. Every day they prayed for them and sang and danced with them. The group provided them with peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and provided them with their medications every day. They also did vacation Bible school for an AIDS orphanage. When families found out their child got

aids, they were kicked out. They were not even allowed in the community; left to be homeless. Nobody associated themselves with AIDS victims. They were all by themselves unless the orphanage took them in. Kyra asserted, “My goals were to make a difference, to improve life for the people we were helping, to comfort them, and to show them they are loved and worthy.” Knowing she was helping, she felt extremely humble. She felt more alive than she ever had. She felt important, needed, and worthy. Kyra never felt that way at home.

Kyra said, “We were all pretty upset when we left. We were all going to miss each other!” They were happy with the amount of work they got done and how they impacted their lives. She stated, “We accomplished the goals we had and so much more.” She was very sad when she went home. She went from making a difference to not doing much at all. Finally, she pointed out, “I learned to be appreciative of everything I had. I grew stronger in my faith and I felt less stressed than I had been with my life prior to the trips. I can’t wait to see where God brings me next”!

