

Visiting a Peaceful Village in Mexico

— Cherish What We Have and Share with Others

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今年四月春假期間，培德中學參加了一個義工組織——科拉松，並舉行了服務訪問團去墨西哥，總共有十個女孩參加。在往墨西哥之前，由於一些近期的旅行警告，人們可能會認為那是一個充滿暴力和毒品的地方。然而，在一天多的車程後，我們來到了拉斯帕爾馬斯村莊，靠近邊界的特卡特市，我們意識到一切並不是預期想像中的。村民非常之友善，臉上總是掛著笑容，和諧的氣氛貫穿著整個村莊。

我們第一天到達村莊時，就開始四處參觀。和瑜伽市相比，該村是比較落後。那裡只有兩名醫生，一所幼兒園，一所小學和初中。有些學生要步行一個多小時才能到達學校。此外，住家電力供應並不是那麼的普遍。在走訪一個家庭裡，我們看到一架半自動的洗衣機，要用人力把水倒入機器中才能洗滌。參觀完之後，我們回到了科拉松所蓋的社區中心，為村裡四至十五歲的孩子們舉辦活動。因為他們不懂英語，所以我們只能用肢體語言和不完整的西班牙語來與他們溝通。我們很有興致地教他們摺紙，玩團體遊戲和一起踢足球，然而他們的球技遠比我們好。雖有語言障礙，我們也教了他們說一些中文像「你好」和「再見」和一些簡單英文，作為這次文化交流的一部份。出乎意料的是，孩子們學得很快和真喜歡獲得新知識，他們



Student Radhika Misri (left) teaching village children to speak and write “Ni Hao” (Hello) in Chinese. 學生米妙善（左）教村裡的孩子們說和寫「你好」的中文。

墨西哥之旅

——珍惜已有並分享他人

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During Spring Break in April this year, Developing Virtue Secondary School joined a volunteer organization, Corazon, and held a service trip to Mexico; there were ten girls participating in total. Before going to Mexico, due to the recent travel warnings, people might think that it is a place of violence and drugs. However, after driving for more than a day, when we arrived at the village of Valle de las Palmas, near the border city of Tecate, we realized everything was not what we had expected. The villagers were nice and friendly; they always had smiles on their faces, and there was a harmonious atmosphere throughout the whole village.

On the first day when we reached the Valle, we toured around. Compared to Ukiah, the village was fairly undeveloped. There are only two doctors, a kindergarten, an elementary school, and a middle school in the village. Some students have to walk more than an hour to reach their school. Moreover, electricity is not as easily available in homes. In one of the homes we visited, we saw that the washing machine does not fill with water automatically; rather the family needs to pour water into the machine by hand. After the tour, we went back to the community center that Corazon had built and held activities with the village children, who ranged in age from 4 to 15. They did not understand any English, so, we could only use our body language and broken Spanish to communicate with them. We had great fun teaching

都表現良好。他們希望上學，想接受教育就像我們一樣。如果我們能夠支持這些孩子們的教育，我相信他們一定能有一個光明的前途。我們學校目前正試圖籌募資金來支持他們。

我們此行的另一個目的，就是要建一間廁所給一個



All the volunteers posing with the local city officials, who gave us certificates of appreciation.

所有義工手執當地政府所頒給的感謝狀。

用糞坑的家庭，到達的第二天我們就開始進行了這個使命。大部份的建材都是舊的和使用過的，我們需要從舊木板中拿出所有的釘子。釘子取出收集後然後重新使用，我們將木板重新油漆和釘起來組成了牆板。然後，大家豎起這些板牆連成牆壁。大約經過七個小時的努力工作，我們達成任務。雖然大家都覺得非常炎熱和疲憊，但卻充滿了成就和滿足感。

最後值得一提的，便是在第三天，我們要幫忙油漆一棟房子。我記得那時日正當中，太陽熱辣的直照著我們，但是這並沒有削弱我們的熱情。我們在梯子上爬上爬下，用刷子和滾筒來給這棟房子上兩層油漆，這並不是一個輕鬆的工作，經過四小時的油漆後這房子外觀令人耳目一新。

在這次的旅程中，每分每秒都在學習。我體會在這個世界上沒有什麼是免費的，要有努力才有收穫。而且，我們付出多少代價，也就是最後我們所得的報償。觀察墨西哥人的生活，讓我學到珍惜所擁有的。在這個世界上不是每個人都能溫飽，有些人甚至沒有地方居住，他們非常欠缺生活必須品，而我們擁有的夠多，那麼為什麼我們不珍惜和分享？

them origami and playing group games and soccer together, though they were far better at soccer than us. Despite the language barriers, we taught them to say things like “Hello” and “Goodbye” in Chinese, and some simple English words, as part of a cultural exchange. Surprisingly, the children learned fast and they actually loved gaining new knowledge. The children were all well-behaved. They want to go to school; they want to be educated, just like us. If we are able to support the education of the children, I am sure that they can have a bright future. Our school is currently trying to raise funds to support them.

The other purpose of our trip was to build a bathroom for a family that only had a pit toilet, which was the mission we carried out on the second day. Most of the building materials were old and used, so we needed to take out all the nails that were hammered into the old boards. After taking out the nails and collecting them for reuse, we painted the boards and hammered them and the planks together as the walls. Then, everyone helped to lift the walls and put them up. After around seven hours of hard work, we completed our task. Although we all felt extremely hot and exhausted, the finished work gave us a sense of success and satisfaction.

Last but not least, on the third day we had to paint a house. I remembered the sun was up high and was brutally shining on us. But that did not diminish our passion. Painting two coats of paint on the house using rollers and brushes and climbing up and down the ladder was not a relaxing job. After four hours of painting, the house appeared fresh and new.

I learned something every moment and second throughout the whole trip. I realized that nothing in this world is free; we gain what we have. And, how much we pay is how much we deserve to have at the end. Observing how the Mexicans live, I learned to cherish what I have. In this world, not every single person has enough to eat and wear; some don't even have a place to live in. They have a lot less than what they need and we have more than enough, so why don't we cherish and share?



Our students and Mexican volunteers posing in front of the bathroom they built. 我們的學生和墨西哥義工在親手合建的浴室前留影。