

Chime in Youth Ambassador Call 11.18.15

Kelly began the call asking with a check in.

Naomi spoke first, happy she is finally able to connect with the group electronically. She will be going back to school in January, having gotten a scholarship. She is living at home dealing with the rains in Kenya which are welcome after a period of drought though they are resulting in some flooding.

Cat was happy to be able to talk to us during tea time in London and is doing well.

Manda reported she broke her hand but is feeling better now. She is in a dance team and is practicing for the world championship and broke her hand during the practice last weekend. It's also very cold in Mongolia now which is making it harder to get around.

Jeetan is enjoying the Vermont weather. He used the letter Susan sent out for fundraising and got several checks totaling about \$300 so far. He's planning a conference for about 200 in April using the structure of Chime In as a model, recruiting social media correspondents, etc.

Mariah then began her presentation. She started in the group as a social media correspondent and is now a youth ambassador, representing the United States. Her mother came to the US from the Philippines when she was young as did her father, who came from Guam. She was born in the United States and grew up in Los Angeles. She identifies with her Filipino heritage and loves Filipino cuisine, especially egg rolls. She also loves karaoke and learned that the first person who patented a karaoke machine was from the Philippines. She hopes someday to learn Tagalog, the language of the Philippines, as she can't speak it now. But she did sing a song in Tagalog for the group. She also translated a few words she does know, such as "I love you".

Mariah loves to explore bookstores, cafes, museums around Los Angeles.

Jeetan and Naomi also commented on the similarities of words in their native languages.

When Mariah was in high school she joined a number of clubs that inspired her to make a difference in the world. When she was a freshman she joined the Dream Project which was both a curriculum and a club. She chose a sustainability goal of gender equality for women and had to do a community service project which helped make her more aware about global issues. It broke her heart to see such inequality in the world. Kelly had taught her that a broken heart is an open heart and it spurred her to become club president and create projects to make others aware of inequality issues. She's raised funds for the Philippines and for Syrian refugees as well as for breast cancer awareness. She's also done toy drives during Christmas season. She loves seeing the impact that her efforts have on others.

During her sophomore year she joined a dance group. She loves dancing and loves to sing and rap. She produced a CD of her work with a group.

Kelly then brought Tony in for a check in. He is almost set for everyone to join him in Guatemala. He is working on completing the paperwork with the families who will be getting the houses that are being built. They will be building 132 houses in December in all, which includes the houses being built by the Chime In contingent. He expects about 300 volunteers. Tony said his organization works with a team to analyze the needs of the community to determine which families are selected for houses. The ones that are the most vulnerable, who have the most needs, are chosen first. For more information you can go to the chime in website chimein.org and click on the tab, yearendevent

Then it was back to Mariah's presentation. She joined another group dedicated to building positive healthy relationships and combating domestic violence. They have an event called Denim Day wear people are encouraged to wear denim to raise awareness of these issues.

Mariah is now working on a recycling program. She also gave the group tips on how to act in a sustainable way when you go hiking or on a camping trip.