



The Joey Shepherd Red Rhino Resource Center

Volunteer Recommendation for Zeeshan Dhakaan

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I am filled with great joy and so much gratitude while providing this letter of recommendation for Zeeshan, a remarkable young man who volunteered at our center through the support of his family and his school, Rustomjee Cambridge International.

From the beginning of his time with us, Zeeshan showed not only curiosity about our work, but he genuinely wanted to serve children and connect with the community.

He shone brightly as a volunteer in our centre and his natural flair and talent for being there for children from under-privileged backgrounds, some of whom had no families, made a big difference to lives. He didn't just teach the students, he held social events and created fun, useful learning experiences, which definitely warmed their hearts and minds.

He was a very special volunteer because his creative, flexible, caring approach coupled with structured lessons and informal conversations and playfulness lit a flame of learning in them all. His approach offered children a unique opportunity to learn, as well as learn about themselves and their relational community with others. By being there and being himself he was able to tap into the unique characteristics of each child to help build capacity and develop social and emotional growth. A deeper and lasting impact which organically supported improving the learning, development and progression for everyone in our community.

Zeeshan committed himself to the Red Rhino Resource Centre from March 14th to March 30th, volunteering each weekday from late morning until early evening (about 100 - 105 hours of actual contribution). Zeeshan quickly became a constant source of energy and warmth at the Centre, and it was obvious he had grown to see the Centre as more to him than just a place to volunteer - it had become a second home.

More significant than the number of hours was the trustworthiness of Zeeshan's approach each day. The sparkle of intention in his eyes, an ever-brightening smile, his sense of genuine purpose and excitement about being with the children each day, and his continued enthusiasm demonstrated, day after day, a lot about him and the impact he made through his quiet demeanour and service.

Zeeshan was involved in working with teaching the children how to use the educational kits, guiding them patiently through new ideas and concepts and genuinely sharing in their joy in being successful. He was often a source of incredible joy in the children's learning, and made learning more fun, and engaged the children and adapted easily to their needs. Zeeshan always had a positive attitude, was respectful and empathetic, and once again served the children at our center with a full heart.

Alongside his work at our centre, Zeeshan devoted his time and effort in a variety of our partner organizations, including children's homes and local schools. The main aim of his visits to these spaces was quite simple in purpose, Zeeshan wished to connect and to empathise with as many children as possible, bringing that same joy, warmth and magic he created at our own centre. When Zeeshan was present, it was impossible not to be caught up in a wave of laughter and energy, and to feel genuinely happy in the moment.

Children of all ages were attracted to him like a magnet, even the littlest children seemed to love being around him. The level of fun and joy they experienced was blatantly obvious. Zeeshan provided opportunities for the children to experience memorable moments whether through storytelling, leading activities or simply being present. He created magical moments that many of the children did not want to move on from. He had a spirit and sincerity that will not be forgotten.

Zeeshan was a pleasure to work with—a responsible, kind and considerate person who often naturally took the lead in getting things done. Zeeshan exhibits leadership by providing a collaborative and humble approach to facilitate bringing people and projects together. Together he took his responsibilities seriously, but brought an energy and optimism that lifted the spirits of everyone around him.

He is undeniably one of the most conscientious and caring young people I have had the privilege of working with. His efforts have positively impacted our children and organization. We firmly believe he will be successful in any educational setting and a positive influence in any situation.

We highly endorse Zeeshan for admission to your institution, he has already shown himself to be a serious leader, an empathetic volunteer, and an exceptional young person.

With deep appreciation,
Malaika Abwonji
Program Coordinator
Joey Shepherd Red Rhino Resource Center.

