Georgia Tech is committed to developing leaders to improve the global human condition. Tell us how you have improved or hope to improve the human condition in your community. (max. 300 words)

Word Count: 302

The sweltering sun beat down on my teammates and me as we surveyed Cuntel Village for a charity project. Pointing at that peculiar area, I asked the village leader, “What is that mess over there?” My curiosity turned to heartbreak. It was a half-built school abandoned by the government due to a shortage in financial support.

Few minutes later, I immediately gathered my teammates and called for a meeting. I pitched to my teammates the idea of splitting the group into two: the construction and education teams. The construction team would focus on finishing building the school, while the education team would teach the villagers’ children numbers and alphabets. My teammates enthusiastically agreed!

Along with my eight members, I scoured the village collecting used paints, triplex boards, nails, and hammers. We gathered the triplex boards together to form a solid roof and hammered the nails that connected woods to form a shelf. We asked our friends in school to donate books to fill the shelves and paint the furniture. Bodies sore, I encouraged my team to persevere through the scorching weather; we completed our tasks in two days.

As the villagers strolled around the freshly built school, their eyes glittered in awe. They thanked us and asked that we continue to teach them. Their laughs of joy strengthened our exhausted bodies. Knowing that we shared our knowledge to help the villagers survive the ever-changing world was worth it. We pledged to return.

My interactions in the village were both eye opening and bittersweet. Despite the satisfaction of bettering the village’s school condition, I realized that it was just a momentary help. To achieve broad community change, a sustainable foundation of education is essential. Within me lies a lifelong devotion to open more doors in improving the issue of education wherever I go.