1. 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: 279

The sun beat down on my team as we surveyed Cuntel Village. We had arrived in the village on a mission to help the locals and their village leader. Pointing at that peculiar-looking area, I asked the village leader, “What is that mess over there?” My curiosity turned to heartbreak when he informed the group that it was a half-built school abandoned by the government due to a shortage of financial support. Calling an emergency meeting, I declared that we would pivot from our original plan of donating to volunteer work.

I proposed the idea of splitting the team into two groups: one for construction and the other education. The construction group would focus on building the school, while the other would teach the villagers numbers and the alphabet. We launched into action.

I scoured the village, collecting materials necessary for the construction. After gathering and placing wooden boards, we successfully built a roof. We also made, painted, and stacked donated books atop a shelf. As the construction progressed, I visited the education team to oversee the progress of the villagers’ learning. Their joy after successfully pronouncing each letter sounded was refreshing for our exhausted bodies.

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. 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 eye-opening and bittersweet. Despite the satisfaction, I realized that it was momentary help. But, such small efforts count and are necessary to fulfill my long-term vision: to educate unprivileged Indonesian people.