

February 18th, 2018

Dear whomever it may concern at Soroptimist International St Albans & District,

My name is Orla and I live in Chesham, Buckinghamshire and attend Dr Challoner's Grammar School. I have the opportunity, following my A Levels, to go to Nepal for a year with the charity Project Trust starting September 2018. The 12 months would predominantly revolve around teaching English, ICT and maths in a primary school and setting up extracurricular activities such as an athletics club or a music club. I will be raising a total of £6200 in order to do this, which will cover flights, insurance, support overseas, the residential courses and accommodation and food. This money also supports Project Trust in setting up new projects to support people all over the world.

The project in Nepal suits me because I have a love for the outdoors and it would be amazing to be in a completely new environment. Full immersion into the community would be achieved with the living circumstances; living alongside a family in their home. I have grown up in a advantaged area and the fact that I have the opportunity to go to Nepal is a privilege in itself. I would like to give back to another community what I have gained from mine, and share the skills that I have developed. I have participated in many sporting activities in the past, such as cross-country, swimming, triathlon and basketball. These have inspired my sense of adventure and my enthusiasm for travelling. I have a desire to become a more global citizen and learn more about the world, and through integrating myself into a Nepalese community I will gain a firsthand understanding of a very different culture.

Academically, languages are a passion of mine and I plan to study Chinese and Spanish at university after my volunteering year abroad. I have previous teaching experience with piano teaching and I teach primary age students for 2 hours per week, however I would like to develop this skill further. It excites me that the teaching in Nepal needs to be more creative due to the lack of resources available; a lack of computer when teaching ICT, for example. English teaching in Nepal is necessary in order to provide children with more working opportunities. Project Trust carefully organizes these projects and they are visited by staff every year to guarantee that volunteers are actually contributing to the community, and are not taking jobs away from the citizens of that community.

I have several plans for my fundraising other than applying to Charitable Trusts. I want to run a Vegan cake sale, set up dance and music events involving my skills in piano and flute and perhaps also a quiz night. Involving the local community will help me to talk to new people so I will do some bag packing at a supermarket and put money jars in local shops in order to share with as many people as possible the benefits that the volunteering will have. I have set up a fundraising page for donations and I will talk to my school for assistance in organising events to do with the school. There are many windows for opportunity with fundraising, and I have a passion to do this particularly because I know my parents will not be able to support me for this trip in terms of money.

Project Trust is an excellent charity that provides strong support for volunteers through the fundraising process to the overseas adventure. They have been sending volunteers overseas for 50 years and have sent over 7000 volunteers abroad during this time. With this volunteering experience I will gain a "Level 3 Foundation in Global Volunteering and Citizenship", which will reflect the dedication I will and have already put into this process. Through the selection course, I realised that I felt strongly about going to Nepal. Nepal is a beautiful place and I am excited to live in a very rural environment.

Thank you for taking time to read this letter and look over my leaflet. Any financial support or donations large or small would be invaluable to the incredible opportunity that there is before me. I will send reports and updates to any donors that wish for them throughout my year as I value this support a great deal. If you would like to contact me regarding any queries please see the contact details on my leaflet.

Yours Faithfully,

Orla Fawcett