

To all involved with St. Louis SCI,

## **2008 Sister Cities International Youth Conference Global Action: Taking Community Service Abroad**

The Sister Cities International Youth Conference was an amazing experience for me. I enjoyed it very much. I learned a lot, and I became more motivated to improve our community.

Making new friends from Iran, Morocco, India, England, Ghana and several cities around the USA taught me that even if something is happening halfway across the world, or even halfway across the nation, it can still affect people that I love and care about.

The SCI Youth Conference also broadened my horizons quite a bit. I learned how to say “Hey” and “What’s up?” in several different languages. I learned what people wear, how people act, and what is considered “normal” in other countries.

We played an intergalactic game where everyone was divided up into two different planets. It taught me that cultural differences can be very extreme, and can cause conflict. That’s why we need to be understanding towards each other and try our best to get along.

Also, our major community service project with Operation Iraqi Children and People to People was very heartwarming. Even though I got two major paper cuts from putting notebooks into plastic bags, I just knew that the children in Iraq would love their school supplies, and maybe it would help them get a better education. This made me feel really motivated to do more because I realized that even though I would probably never directly see those children in Iraq, it still made me happy to imagine their smiles.

Sister Cities International made me realize so many deep, meaningful things about community service and helping people, but what I am mostly grateful for is all the friends I made. I hope with all my heart that I’ll be able to attend the SCI Youth Conference next year and I thank you all so much for this wonderful, unforgettable experience.

Gratefully,

Christi Roeder