

In January of 2010, I traveled to the Philippines with a group of Christian business leaders. We visited different cities near Manila, along with numerous “squatter” communities where people literally live in filth. We handed out food, supplies, helped set up tents, and even washed feet. We realized that the amount of food we handed out, and whatever help we provided the people during our short visit would never be enough. The people would still be hungry and just as desperate after we left. So, two of the businessmen that came with us decided to make a lasting impact by opening business ventures in the Philippines. This way they could hire and train Philipinos to give them lifelong opportunity. One of the men set up a SEO business and computer graphic design company. In fact, these companies did some of the work on my own website and e-business about a year after my visit. The other businessman set up a call center that now employs over 40 people. As a group, we met with the mayor and vice-mayor of San Pablo City, with intentions to discuss what could be done to most effectively aid the citizens. This was an eye opening experience, as we quickly saw how corrupt the government was first-hand. We stayed at near a school for orphans where I helped to lead various activities for the students. Before we left, we set up dental care and vision testing for all of the kids in the orphanage. During the summer of 2011, I traveled with a high-school friend to Haiti with a group called “Love for Haiti.” We stayed at a school and helped to run a summer camp for around 150 kids, whose ages ranged from 6-15 years old. I had to come up with my own curriculum for the Haitian students during the 10 days I was there. This proved to be extremely challenging, since I expected the students to understand more English than they knew. The language barrier between the French-speaking students and myself caused me to think on my feet as I adapted my planned curriculum to work given the circumstances. These two global outreach opportunities took me out of my comfort zone, but helped me to demonstrate leadership as well as give back to our global community.

As a kid growing up, my father would always take me to nearby military shows. I would walk up and down the aisles of huge convention centers, following my Dad who had a particular interest in WW2 militaria. As I got older, I watched as my Dad formed a collection, and was on the ground floor when he realized the profit

potential of his new hobby. I helped him to start an e-business, which was slow at first. However, due to the hiring of a new employee, and some modifications to our website with the help of the companies set up in the Philippines, the e-business has recently been reconstructed into a growing business. I have played an important role in helping with the design and development of our website by creating essential elements such as our watermark and promotional fliers given to customers with each purchase. I have also helped promote our website by setting up complimentary storefronts on popular websites like eBay. Due to our recent success, we have recently set goals to achieve \$100,000 in business each month for the 2012 fiscal year. So far we have been on track, and I have done all I can to help grow this business into what it is today.

I am applying for these scholarships because I believe that furthering my education will allow me to continue helping companies build and develop their e-commerce. In addition, my success in business will allow me to give back to my community by investing into the lives of the less fortunate, and those who have not had the same opportunities that were given to me. Whether I end up in the United States or the Third World, I know that my future will include teaching and helping others to thrive in our global economy.