

# Youth Global Leadership Alumni Case Study: BAILEY ADAMS

## About this Case Study

This report is the first in a series of case studies that serves to support our evaluation of the long term impact of Philanthropiece Foundation's Youth Global Leadership (YGL) program. As a program for youth, it can be difficult to distinguish between the confounding factors that are involved in the growth of program participants. One aspect of our program mission is to inspire a new generation of leaders and changemakers. Through interviews with YGL alumni, we hope to compile narratives that can help us gain a deeper understanding of the effects that YGL may have had on participants, extending beyond their direct participation in the program. Our hope is that these case studies will help us to better recognize the impact of YGL on program alumni.

### YGL Alumna Snapshot

**Name:** Bailey Adams

**Year in YGL:** 2012

**YGL Cor Project:** *Cupcakes for Cambodia*

**College:** American University

**Major:** International Development

**Minor:** Public Health

**Study Abroad:** Kenya, India

**Projects:** Delta Phi Epsilon (Foreign Service club), Empower Congo

**Jobs/Internships:** Rockies Venture Club, Heshima Kenya, Vital Voices Global Partnership, Philanthropiece,

## Featured Alumna

This case study highlights former YGL participant, Bailey Adams. Bailey joined YGL in her senior year of high school after returning from a volunteer experience in Cambodia. During her time in YGL, she was involved with various aspects of the program including local service learning and social entrepreneurship activities. The standout aspect of Bailey as a YGLer was the implementation of her Cor Project initiative. She spearheaded her *Cupcakes for Cambodia* project that combined her interest in baking with supporting an orphanage where she had volunteered the previous summer.

Bailey is now a rising senior at American University in Washington D.C. where she is pursuing a major in International Development with Concentration on sub-Saharan Africa, and a minor in Public Health. She recently returned from studying abroad in Kenya and India where she explored themes of sustainable development, public health, urban refugees, and geographies of gender. In addition, she has been involved with the Delta Phi Epsilon, a Foreign Service sorority, and Empower Congo, an organization that brings speakers and world leaders to campus in order to engage and collaborate on projects addressing the M23 rebellion in Eastern Congo.

## Building Confidence to Spark Change

I sat down with Bailey to understand what impact YGL may have had on the path she has chosen to pursue in college. When asked about the influence her experience in YGL may have had on the decisions, she responded "I feel like it's so hard to

determine what was from YGL and what was not. A lot of things in my life I think back on, YGL helped me to do that, maybe better than I could have done it or maybe I wouldn't have done it at all." While she didn't explicitly identify YGL as the reason she has done everything she has done, it was clear throughout the interview that YGL was a contributing factor. Bailey noted "I tell people about YGL all the time," emphasizing how the program played a large role for her in realizing the power of collaboration, connecting her with a supportive and passionate network, and building her confidence to spark change.

"Finally with YGL, I experienced for the first time meeting a group of people who were so passionate about global issues and they were all doing different things," Bailey said. "It's a really cool environment where everyone is so supportive and I hadn't had that before. That experience showed me that there were people around me who I could collaborate with and have all this support. That definitely propelled me further onto my path." Bailey's involvement in Delta Phi Epsilon reflects the

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importance of the YGL community. She noted, "I basically explain it (DPE) to people as a larger version of YGL. It's all committed women changing the world." She also noted YGL's role in her involvement with Empower Congo. "YGL empowered me with strong leadership skills and confidence that I applied to be on the Executive Board of the club and was accepted."

## Exposure to the Nonprofit Sector

Throughout the interview, Bailey referenced how various aspects of YGL benefited her as a college student. One major advantage included an understanding of the culture and workings of the nonprofit sector. "It just opened my eyes to so much more of the field than I knew existed. I came into college knowing so much more than my peers which I almost entirely attribute to YGL. Now everyone's on a level playing field but having that advantage going into college was critical." In addition, she mentioned how YGL has served as an asset in looking for jobs and internships. "I go to job interviews," describes Bailey, "and people are like... 'you did that in high school?!'"

Bailey cited service learning opportunities as another beneficial aspect of the YGL program. "I think learning about the difference between service learning and community high school is huge. That was a good thing to have early on." Understanding the distinction between the two helped to guide decisions on what to be involved in.

## Long Term Impact

As an alumni, Bailey identified the continued support of the YGL and Philanthropiece community as a key benefit. Pulling from one example, she described when she met up with Philanthropiece Director of Programs, Katie Doyle Myers, while home on summer break. Bailey described how she shared stories from her study abroad experience and always appreciates the insight Katie has to offer. Informal meetups such as these help her to stay connected and supported.

Throughout the interview, it became clear that Bailey's time in YGL has resonated with her throughout her college experience in a variety of ways. The long term impact of YGL for Bailey has manifested in her confidence to engage in campus organizations, understanding of the nonprofit sector and service learning, involvement in supportive and collaborative communities, and an appreciation for long-standing support from the YGL and Philanthropiece community.



**Case study and article developed by Emily Robertson, YGL Program Intern. Emily is a junior at the University of Denver majoring in Geography; during the 2015 fall semester, she is studying abroad in Vietnam. Emily is a founding member and alumna of Philanthropiece's Youth Global Leadership program.**