

“I found myself whispering a silent “thank-you” week after week of my journey.”



Reflections 2017

At Farther Foundation, we have always had an intuitive sense that our students' travel **experiences are beneficial**, that they open their minds and broaden their thinking. But there is a growing body of research demonstrating the importance of *mindset* in student achievement – developing a positive *learning mindset* characterized by:

- Growth: The belief that intelligence can be developed,
- Belonging: The belief that one is respected and valued, and fits into their learning environment, and
- Purpose & Relevance: The belief that one's school work is valuable because it is personally relevant and/or connected to a larger purpose.

Students who develop a learning mindset interpret and respond to challenges and adversity more positively and this initiates a self-reinforcing cycle. The researchers stated that, "*Mindsets are not fixed traits. They come from messages students learn from society, their interactions with others, **and their experiences.***"

We believe much of our students' success comes from having **experiences** that help change their mindset: Growth, Belonging, Purpose and Relevance. They become unwilling to settle for less than what they deserve and can earn, and they are resilient in facing the challenges they undoubtedly will face.

Please enjoy the photos and stories from the journeys of our class of 2017 in our annual photo journal – *Reflections*.

David Weindling
Farther Foundation President & Founder

-- On the cover: Sparkle traveled to Tanzania where she engaged in community service and enjoyed bonding with local children



Anahi traveled to the Dominican Republic where she provided community service in local health clinics – and made friends!



Anahi was referred to us by the [Daniel Murphy Scholarship Fund](#) and traveled to the Dominican Republic with [Global Leadership Adventures](#) where she volunteered at medical clinics as part of her program abroad.

“Working at the clinic highlighted the faults in the health systems in developing countries. I traveled throughout the Dominican Republic exploring the reality of their health system. I was heart-broken to find the lack of sufficient medical facilities and medical equipment that was offered. Therefore, I plan on majoring in the medical field and hopefully bringing change to everyone that is being robbed from their right.”

-- Anahi

Adrienne was referred to us by [LINK Unlimited](#) and traveled to Nepal with [Projects Abroad](#).

“Imagine the intense Grey’s Anatomy shows where the doctors dash out the room with the patient on the stretcher. Now imagine me; the anxious but excited, Amy Winehouse obsessed, sixteen-year-old black girl squeezing the respiratory pump while transporting this man through a crowded Nepali hospital. It was awesome! We finally got to the surgical ward and my job was complete. Although he was in and out of consciousness, I held my patient’s hand and said goodbye. This was my first real medical experience and definitely one that I will never forget. As I walked out of the ward, an older woman and her daughter approached me. The woman said in Nepali, “Thank you for helping my son.” From that moment I was proud of myself.

-- Adrienne





Daniel was referred to us by [Evanston Scholars](#) and went to a [Boston University summer session](#).

“One of the students asked me about who I am and why I’m here. I shared that I was a first-generation student and was planning to be the first in my family to go to college. I explained to them that I was here to make a change in not just the person who I am, but a change in the way people view my family. The amount of support that I got from the scholars that were attending the BU program was astonishing. Sharing my story not only made me push myself to the limit in the program, but made me more proud of where I come from.”

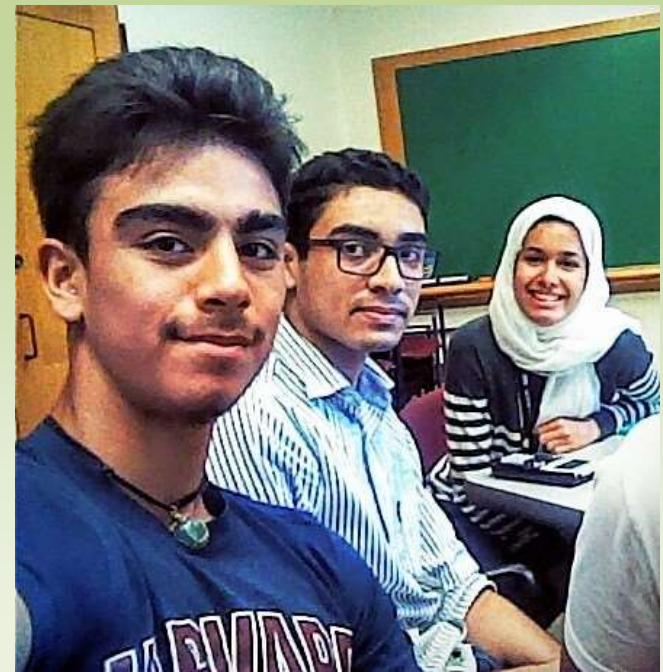
-- Daniel



Diana studied at [Stanford](#) and was referred to us by [Noble Network](#).

“I was taught to share my opinion, get involved in politics, and to listen to others. I made friends who had different political opinions than mine, and it showed me that what a person believes does not determine who they are as a person. In this three week long program, I grew as a person and learner, and I am thankful that I was given this opportunity.”

-- Diana



Luis was referred to us by [Minds Matter](#) and studied at [Harvard University](#) this past summer.

“Upon the completion of my seven weeks at Harvard I realized that my world is small in comparison to what transpires in the real world. Life is just truly beginning for me and now more than ever I realize how much I still need to strive, to rise above my current status as a scholar if I am to become someone of change and inspiration in this world.”

-- Luis



Salma was referred to us by [HighSight](#) and traveled to Mexico with [The Experiment in International Living](#).

“My host mother is really quite amazing. She is very intelligent and is an entrepreneur which is something that I always wanted to be. We grew very close and we even went shopping together. She is a very strong woman and I am so happy to have met her. What I think is really important for anyone who is going to participate in a program like this is that it might be scary or nerve-racking at first, but only by opening up and dropping your walls will you really get to grow.”

-- Salma

Samantha traveled to Bali with [Global Leadership Adventures](#) and was referred to us by the [Daniel Murphy Scholarship Fund](#).

“It seemed that care and respect towards everyone was a key concept within Balinese culture. Further exemplifying this attitude was Robin Lim, an extraordinary woman we met during a visit to her free natural birth clinic, Bumi Sehat. Robin, an experienced midwife, had decided to commit her life to offering prenatal care and midwife services to Balinese women in need. Robin offered a safe and free alternative which has helped thousands of women have healthy pregnancies. When we talked to her about her mission, her passion and genuine love for the community she was serving was obvious. Her commitment and hopeful yet determined attitude to better the lives of her communal Balinese family was inspiring and the embodiment of the love of the Balinese for one another.”

-- Samantha



Juliana referred to us by [HighSight](#) traveled to Chile on a program with St. Ignatius.

“Although my time in Chile was short, it was an unforgettable time. The friendships I made there caused me to not want to leave but “así es la vida.” I had the privilege of living with a very caring and fun family along with meeting the most incredible peers I could possibly ever meet but life works in a funny way and somethings just can't last forever. Chile really taught me how to cherish every moment and helped me realize that the small things really do matter.”

-- Juliana



Maria was referred to us by [Daniel Murphy Scholarship Fund](#) and traveled to the Dominican Republic with [Global Leadership Adventures](#).

“‘Your adventure starts here.’ This would stick with me until the end. Along with individuals from all around the globe, we gathered to learn, experience, and help at a first-hand level. I was taught about different conflicts involving global health and corrupt charity, not only in the Dominican Republic, but also around the world. I learned about problems with mass consumerism that prompted me to rethink and change my life back in America. I was exposed to conflicts between the Haitians and Dominicans, climate change problems, and how they impacted the Dominican and the natural world. I got to explore incredible beaches, such as Bahia de las Aguilas, hikes, rivers, and was deeply culturally immersed. I ate traditional Dominican food and even got to visit Haiti at the Haitian-Dominican market!”

-- Maria

Alma came to us from [Phoenix Military Academy](#) and traveled to Italy with [The Road Less Traveled](#).

“At the farm we learned Italian. I had so much fun learning it and I was honestly interested. Italian is so much like Spanish and that is why I was catching on pretty quickly. I was the one who would answer the most questions. That is also where we learned how to make pasta and ravioli from scratch. Cooking is something I love to do, so I obviously had so much fun.”

-- Alma



Laura was referred to us by [HighSight](#) and traveled to Tanzania with [The Experiment in International Living](#).

“During the five weeks that I was in Tanzania, I learned about the different cultures and traditions. I got the chance to learn Swahili and Maa language from the Massai community. I also did 50 hours of community services. We helped make a preschool for the little kids in the Stahabu community and helped make the bomas that were in the Massai village stronger. We also stayed with two different homestays families who taught me all about their day-to-day life.”

-- Laura



Christie came to us from [Evanston Scholars](#) and studied at a [Tufts University summer program](#).

"I signed up for Tufts University summer camp for Veterinary Science to help figure out if this is what I truly want to do for the rest of my life. One of first things that I learned at Tufts was how huge the Veterinary Medicine field is and how many careers I could choose from."

-- Christie



Joshua came to us from [Evanston Scholars](#) and studied at [Boston University](#).

"I feel that this experience has taught me that your comfort zone is just a phase that everybody goes through. This summer program gave me such an impact on my college decision because I realize that I actually like big campuses. I always knew that I can make friends but I didn't know I can make friendships I can keep forever."

-- Josh



Shania studied at [Emory University](#) and came to us from [Pass with Flying Colors](#).

"Due to all the memorable moments I had at Emory, I am now sure that my future should definitely include studying at a university. Finally, for the rest of my life, I learned it is possible for me to lower anxiety and fear of being social towards other people and that is why I want to continue studying after high school. The mysteries and hardships of your own life can become one of the largest and most meaningful lessons you have ever received."

-- Shania



Avigail was referred by [Minds Matter](#) and studied at a [Stanford University](#) summer program.

[Click here to view a video essay she created.](#)



Grace was referred to us by [Daniel Murphy Scholarship Fund](#) and traveled to Thailand with [Global Leadership Adventures](#).

“It was such a stark realization of how much effort goes into conservation and taking care of animals. After doing this, I realized that there is a human component to every conservation problem we face. It really drove home the idea that if we want to make the world a better place we have to want to help each other.”

-- Grace



Jasmin was referred to us by [HighSight](#) and traveled to Brazil with the [Experiment in International Living](#).

“My family was very caring. We communicated in three languages: Portuguese, Spanish, and English. My homestay mom and I would teach each other words. At the end I could communicate with my family in Portuguese because I had learned enough words to have a decent conversation.”

-- Jasmin

Fabiola was referred to us by [HighSight](#) and traveled to Ghana with [AFS](#).

“Ghana revealed to me that being challenged is a good and positive thing that I need to become more comfortable with. It showed me that people really do change people and the actions I make today will impact someone else. It showed me that I can change the world with small actions.”

-- Fabiola





Agustin was referred to us by [HighSight](#) and traveled to Mongolia with the [Experiment in International Living](#).

“My dad left, and my mom couldn’t raise me.’ Through translated Mongolian, a nameless boy, only eight or nine, known as Green –for the color of his eyes– shared with me the painful reality of his childhood. He asked not for pity, or for anything, in return. He simply needed an open ear to share his plights, all before the age of ten years old.”

-- Agustin



Cherish was referred to us by [HighSight](#) and traveled to Panama with [AFS](#).

“I wanted to practice my Spanish; my siblings wanted to learn phrases in English. My mom taught me how to make chicha, and I taught her how to make French toast. My father and I had conversations about the difference between the slow gallops of American horses compared to the speedy trot of the Panamanian ones.”

-- Cherish



Christopher was referred to us by [HighSight](#) and traveled to Morocco with the [Experiment in International Living](#).

“I was imaging who my family might be till suddenly I was the first called. A little elderly woman with a 12-year old boy named Merwan. Merwan became my best friend in the upcoming days. He taught me everything from house traditions to Moroccan Arabic. The house I lived in was the furthest from the rest of the village. My house was a mixture of sheds and concrete. My family was very low in social economic class. My room consisted of a small metal shed with a swinging light and rugs as a bed. This really showed me how to love the small things in life. Also, teaching me one of the most important lessons that I have ever learned; Life is full of enjoyment, there is always a reason that the day is good.”

-- Christopher



Nathaniel was referred to us by [Phoenix Military Academy](#) and traveled to Belize with [The Road Less Traveled](#).

“Eels and sharks passed below me as I slowly hovered above them trying to get to my final depth of thirty meters. The taste of the salt water seeped through my regulator as I gasped for air in sight of two eels fighting each other. It was a crazy thing to experience, but I’m glad I did see it because I will never in my life see something like that again. The only thing I could hear then was the sound of my excited scream and the dive leader shake his “attention getter” to make sure all of the students were back on track to our destination.”

-- Nathaniel



Sparkle was referred to us by [HighSight](#) and traveled to Tanzania with [Putney Student Travel](#).

“Returning home, I had acquired a stronger value for face-to-face communication, a deeper gratitude for the resources at my disposal, and an obligation to conserve them. I found it difficult to see some of the conditions in which the people lived, but I also found powerful similarities, such as their family life and their religious beliefs, that put a smile on my face. And, even though I am miles and miles away from the compound, whenever I see a star in the natural sky, it reminds me of the many beautiful nights in which we stargazed the Tanzanian sky.”

-- Sparkle



Octavia was referred to us by [High Jump](#) and traveled to the Dominican Republic with [CIEE](#).

"I beat the greatest limit there ever was -- myself. I felt like I could do anything, and I can. I can hike through the woods and jump off waterfalls and slide into natural pools. I can survive a month in a foreign country, practically alone, without parents. I can push myself and find motivation. I will be okay."

-- Octavia



Rosario was referred to us by the Art Institute and traveled to Germany with [CIEE](#).

"Germany did have a lot to offer me, it had more to offer me than I could have asked for. Learning a new language was only one of the few things Germany had to offer. It also offered me a new and refreshing perspective about the world, new friends, and ideas about my own future. I wasn't completely sure about what the world had to offer, but I'm ready now more than I have ever been to discover what world has in store."

-- Rosario



Jennifer came to us from [LINK Unlimited](#) and traveled to Spain with [AFS](#).

"It was in Malaga that I found a love for churros, it was in Sevilla that I shared an unforgettable rowboat ride with a great friend, it was in Nerja that I ate the best paella in creation, it was in Cordoba I found an appreciation for Spanish culture, it was in Granada I was able to view ancient architecture."

-- Jennifer



Leslie was referred to us by [HighSight](#) and traveled to Jordan with [The Experiment in International Living](#).

"I used this trip as a way to educate others on the crisis's going on the Middle East. Once I got back to school I represented Jordan in a Model United Nations, as a way to inform others in my school and community."

-- Leslie



Samuel was referred to us by [LINK Unlimited](#) and traveled to Colombia with [AFS](#).

"Samuel was my 'tocayo' a person that shares the same name as you. Throughout this journey, I had the encouragement and friendship of Samuel. He helped me to understand the basics of salsa, bachata, and merengue, told me his own life story and was just simply a warm smile to see on my trip. His last message to me was, 'Tocayo, I'll miss you.'"

-- Samuel



Leslye was referred to us by [Daniel Murphy Scholarship Fund](#) and traveled to China with [The Experiment in International Living](#).

"All of them wanted a balloon. Who knew that something as simple as a balloon would make these children smile like never before. The happiness we were able to bring to these children was so heartwarming and touching. The happiness they brought me just proves that we can live out one of my all-time favorite quotes by Pramukh Swami Maharaj, 'In the joy of others lies our own.' I am blessed for getting to experience such a beautiful thing."

-- Leslye



Alissa was referred to us by [Noble Network](#) and studied at [Syracuse University](#).

“I was one of four girls in the Aerospace Engineering course and, mind you, there were about thirty of us in this course. This was a realization that I wasn't just there for the course, but I was there to represent girl power, and represent that Chicago is striving for its future through me.”

-- Alissa

Nia-Blessing was referred to us by [HighSight](#) and traveled to Thailand with [AFS](#).

“I feel the friends I've made and my second family in this world have caused me to find another part of myself in just these short 6 weeks.”

-- Nia-Blessing



Sofia was referred to us by [Evanston Scholars](#) and spent her summer at [Brown University](#).

“Being at Brown made me feel like I was so close to the finish line -- that I could almost reach out and break it. Brown University is where I made lifelong friends, where I reaffirmed my passion for activism, and where I spent the best 3 weeks of my life surrounded by people from all over the world.”

-- Sofia



Joel was referred to us by [Phoenix Military Academy](#) and traveled to Hawaii with [The Road Less Traveled](#).

“I now care more about this planet and am looking forward to doing more service work dealing with protecting the environment. I am looking into organizations and programs that help the planet.”

-- Joel



You enable our students to travel around the world, live new experiences and discover the best in themselves.

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