



## *“I have to play a role in making changes”*

“I worked as a volunteer in the DCI’s Health Center in Dhaka. It is a small free clinic that offers treatment to those living in the nearby slums, or working as servants. As a volunteer, I had the unique opportunity to work directly with the patients and the doctor. I had the opportunity to learn how a free clinic works and the work and resource inputs that go towards making an urban free clinic functional. But more importantly, through my direct interaction with the residents of slum, I saw first-hand the health problems and hardships that plague the poor. These are people living, eating, sleeping and bathing in most of Dhaka’s garbage. They were washing their water in the same water that they bathe in and also use as their toilet. I cannot put into words the extent of need and suffering that I saw there but I know that it showed me how desperately change must take place. And I was happy to see that DCI is a part of the change that needs to happen. I saw that the people in even the innermost parts of the slums were familiar with DCI workers. I was happy to see that DCI is a part of the change that needs to happen.

I also went on a trip to northern part of Bangladesh to visit a school in a rural village. This was my most uplifting experience and one that I will always treasure. I had the chance to celebrate Friendship Day with the children in this school. I am truly honored by the genuine friendship they showed me. Most of the children in this school were sponsored children. I had a wonderful time talking to them about what they learn in school, what they do for pastime, what they want to be when they grow up, etc. I was truly inspired by DCI’s work that day because it showed me that even in a place where education is not always easily accessible, and the future of children is bound to be like that of their parent’s due to lack of opportunity, there is a way to effectively allow families to continue unhampered with their livelihoods and at the same time allow their children to acquire an education and make their way towards a brighter hope-filled future.

I am forever indebted to DCI for all that I learned, the beautiful time I spent and the heartfelt inspiration that I took away from my trip.

*-Saika Belal Nitol,*

*College of William & Mary,*

*Williamsburg, VA*