

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

TESTIMONY

In respect of Dr. Julie Spaniel of Summerwood Family Dental

I write to honestly testify and to wholeheartedly express my greatest appreciation to Dr. Julie Spaniel of Summerwood Family Dental for her immense free Dental Care Services and Cultural Exchange programs in the rural communities of Ghana. For over 15 years working in these communities, this is my first time to have seen and experienced such impactful humanitarian work for the poor and cultural exchange activities between especially young people/students here in Ghana and those from the USA – it is our utmost desire and appeal that rural communities continue to benefit from these services.

For a number of times and again planning another program in January 2020, Dr. Julie Spaniel and her team of student volunteers and medical professionals have been undertaking Dental Care Services and Cultural Exchange programs in the rural communities of Ghana. On the field, Dr. Julie Spaniel taught her team/ student volunteers to clean, brush and floss the teeth, apply fluoride and report any complications, while she carried out tasks that required professional and technical expertise such as scraping off plaque and tartar from the gums and teeth, treatment of gum infections and extracting of teeth that posed problems to the patients such as broken, weak, decayed or painful teeth. On top of that, she prescribed and supplied medicine to the patients. I was always enthused when Dr. Julie Spaniel sometimes called her team members/student volunteers around her to explain to them particular dental conditions. Also, she always brought broad smiles on the faces of the poor beneficiary students and rural people after they received treatment and given packs containing tooth brushes, paste, fluoride and floss free of charge to take home and continue to use. These services help a lot of poor rural communities to attain highest form of dental treatment of which they could not have afforded; students become confident and actively participate in the class, increase school attendance and consequently enhance educational outcomes for young people.

Dr. Julie Spaniel's presence in our communities also offers opportunities for cultural exchange activities between student volunteers from the USA and our Ghanaian students/young people, as they took time to visit homes and tourist sites such as the Waterfalls, Monkey Sanctuary and the Cape Coast Castle. They interacted, discussed and shared information about education, politics, social, family, communities, festival and personal issues from both countries. I often hear our young Ghanaian students/people eager to ask a lot of questions about America; and also see Student volunteers from the USA keenly taking part in the local drumming and dancing, preparing local meals, learning local languages, meeting traditional authorities, Chiefs and Elders and so on. These helps expose the students/young people to cultures from both countries – Ghana and USA and especially help enhance the self-esteem and confidence of our Ghanaian young people/students and help break stereotypes and expand their social networks – in fact, this is really deepening cultural exchange and immersion.

I humbly appeal to any individual, organisation or institution willing to support or partner with Dr. Julie Spaniel and or her organisation to do so to support the world's underserved and underprivileged populations.

Thank you

Yours Faithfully,



Kofi Nyalimba

(Chief Executive Officer/Country Representative for Refugee Outreach Club)

5th December, 2019