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I had always wanted to volunteer in East Africa because I grew up hearing stories from my parents who lived in Kenya for a few years. Throughout university I searched various programs and I struggled because many of the programs were very short, expensive, and I just didn't feel that I could have an impact with them. Eventually I stumbled across WorldTeach during one of my google searches and after hours of sifting through the webpage, testimonials, videos, and blogs, I decided this was absolutely the program for me! One thing that really struck me

with WorldTeach was the fact that they only go to countries who need (but also want) help. They support the host countries but they do not overpower or undermine them, which I think is incredibly important.

WorldTeach programs provide incredible support pre-service, in-service, and post-service. From the moment I applied until today I have felt connected to WorldTeach and truly believe differences are being made every day. There is a high expectation with the program that you put your heart and soul into your service. I faced many challenges while in Tanzania (a new culture, different language, no water or electricity, rats, and more) and even though I was alone in my house, I never felt disconnected from my field director or my fellow volunteers. Volunteering with WorldTeach was one of the best decisions I have ever made and I would recommend it to anyone truly interested in teaching children but also those willing to learn because you will learn more than you could ever give.

My students were the reason I went to Tanzania and they were definitely what got me through the tough times.

Walking to school and having students yell "Good morning Madam!" with huge smiles on their faces, lightened my mood every time. The best experience I had while teaching at Usangule Secondary School was creating a library alongside a fellow Tanzanian teacher. We took a corner classroom that was not being used and we opened it up for student use. Eventually we were able to have one shelf built and we had some books purchased that would support students in their studies but also inspire students to want to read (fun and colourful books). Though the books were amazing and it was great to see students reading or attempting to read, it was the atmosphere created that was most rewarding. Students, who are often afraid of their teachers, would come into the space created for them and feel comfortable. They were able to look at the posters I created or found and spend time with me or the other teacher (chatting, reading, studying). I watched students change from scared, quiet kids to kids running in with smiles plastered on their faces, wanting to read! I will never forget those smiles.