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Ashleigh Jardine
Andrews University

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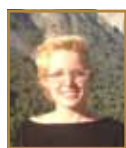
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Empowering the Voiceless

BY ASHLEIGH JARDINE

Shae Archambault enjoys helping others through mission work. The speech pathology student at Andrews University went on her first mission trip when she was a high-schooler at Grand Rapids Adventist Academy. She and her classmates traveled to Arizona to give worship talks and work in the community. Since that experience, her passion for service has grown.



Shae Archambault

Last winter, Shae made the decision to volunteer at an orphanage in Uganda. She and several friends traveled to the country and did mission work during July 2014. In considering her decision, Shae says, "I got to a point where I had been wanting to go somewhere for a few years. I knew I was ready. ... I didn't see any openings, though, so I waited."

When she received a phone call "out of nowhere" from a close friend who was planning the trip, Shae claims the opportunity was too good to pass up. She decided that minute to go to Uganda as well.

Shae says her relationship with Christ became more and more real after she decided to go on the trip. She realized how excited she was about God and noticed a difference in how open she was with him. One of her biggest goals became to love people better and see through others' eyes. Even more appealing was the chance to do this at an orphanage.

"I've always wanted to do that," Shae says. "I'm drawn to the older kids, the teens and the women there. ... I feel like I understand them."

Currently, Shae and the other missionaries are trying to create a student missionary position at the orphanage through Andrews or Southern Adventist Universities. Besides her work in Uganda, she also stays involved in the States. She has worked at youth camps for four summers and participates in the non-profit organization TrueYou in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The TrueYou organization teaches people to love better through self-discovery and personal purpose.

Some day, Shae hopes to go on a mission trip as a speech pathologist. She has a passion for traveling, art and meeting new people.

Ashleigh Jardine is a freelance writer from Berrien Springs, Michigan.

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