



NEWS RELEASE

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Toledo youth to realize dream of advocating for with destitute elderly

Caitlin Freeman from Toledo, Ont. will be leaving for Accra, Ghana on July 17th to begin her position as an outreach worker with Project Reach Out.

Freeman, 23, will be spending seven months abroad, counselling isolated seniors and helping them to access health care and other social services. She was hired as part of the International Youth Internship Program (IYIP) funded in part by the Canadian International Development Agency.

Freeman recently graduated from the University of Guelph with a degree in Gerontology. She was looking for an opportunity to get field experience and travel, so when she found the posting on the CIDA website, it was a perfect fit.

When Caitlin arrives in Ghana, she expects that even though the cultures will be different, the same stereotypes about seniors and aging will be in place.

“I am expecting to land in the middle of a situation where the seniors are badly in need of advocacy and help,” Freeman said.

Freeman was surprised and pleased to find a position that required her degree in Gerontology because there is usually a shortage of opportunities for those in her field.

Freeman has volunteered with the Alzheimer’s Society, St. Joe’s Hospital in Guelph and at various psychiatric hospitals, working with seniors.

“I like working with marginalized and at risk seniors,” she said.

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