

When the word philanthropist is used what comes to mind is someone like John Rockefeller or a famous celebrity. Someone with millions or billions of dollars to spare, but they are not the only ones that can make a difference in the world. Anyone willing to give their time to help someone or something, for no reward is a philanthropist. The person, who to me best demonstrates these qualities, is Dhelia Williamson.

The philanthropist will focus on is Dhelia Williamson. She has immersed herself in helping others. Born in Calgary, Alberta on November, 1963, Dee has involved herself in philanthropy. In 1986 Dhelia joined Peace Corps. At twenty- two years of age Dhelia became a teacher at a poor secondary school in Kenya.

At times Dhelia would have to go without the bare necessities like food and water, during her four year term. She mainly taught as a math teacher, but when help was short she filled in as a variety of roles such as language and gym teacher. In addition to math she taught volleyball. While working in Kenya, Dhelia wrote grants to get supplies for the school such as books. She partnered with her father who at the time worked at Davidson University, and arranged to have their old microscopes sent to the school for the new science lab. The lab was built with funds from Dhelia's grants.

Dhelia stated that the experience changed her a lot. She said that she learned patience, cultural sensitivity, living like a minority, and being without necessities. Recently she has been tutoring teens as a volunteer, and has given her car away instead of selling it because someone was in need of a vehicle. Talking to Dee has changed how I look at people and how they donate to their community. Even if someone does something

practical I can make a difference. I guess when you help someone it makes you feel good about yourself helping that person or thing.

Without philanthropists in the world who knows what life would be like? You and I are the next generation ready to fill our elders' footsteps in order to make this world a better place. Then it will be the responsibility of our children and their children to help in the ongoing task of changing the world. Whoever you are, young or old, big or small, it is your job to donate to your community and your world. Without your donation there will never be peace, so open your heart and mind, and show how you can help others; just like Dhelia Williamson.