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Cornell University Public Service Center

To whom it may concern,

I am very pleased to write a strong letter of support for the Cover Africa Service Learning Trip. Students in this project are applying for funds to support a unique international grassroots community project. I am involved in this project as the faculty advisor and instructor of the class ENTOM 410, Malaria Interventions in Ghana, which is associated with the service learning trip.

This project has come together entirely based on the hard work and outstanding initiative of several student leaders. I have been extremely impressed with the level of competence and dedication these students have shown. Furthermore, I have no doubt that students involved in the Cover Africa Service Learning Trip will have an invaluable and life-inspiring learning experience! As you may know, the global incidence of malaria is increasing and as many as 3 million people die from the disease annually. Most of these deaths are among children in Africa. One of the simplest but highly effective forms of prevention is use of pyrethroid impregnated bed nets. Unfortunately, many people in malaria endemic regions do not have the financial means to purchase nets or the knowledge about proper bed net use and malaria prevention.

My students are fundraising to purchase mosquito bed nets and re-treatment tablets for distribution in Humjibre, Ghana, this winter. While in Humjibre, students will create a malaria needs indicator that they will use to evaluate malaria intervention strategies. This work will be conducted in partnership with a local NGO (the Ghana Health and Education Initiative). Students will be evaluating their survey instrument, intervention approaches, and experiences after they return to Cornell during the spring semester.

I hope you agree that this grassroots community project is a valuable program! Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Best regards,

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