

# Mushfiqa (Monica) Jamaluddin

Youth Volunteer

DCI Chapter, University of Texas Austin

Over this past Christmas Break I was in Bangladesh and I had the opportunity to visit a few potential project sites- one was the industrial village of Jinjeera and the other was an orphanage in Azimpur. It was heartbreaking to see the conditions in which the children lived in JinJeera as well as the babies that had been abandoned by their mothers at Dhaka Medical College and been taken in by the orphanage. My personal goal for this trip was to get a firsthand experience with the issues Bangladesh is dealing with and how DCI is planning to help alleviate some of these problems. Although I have



visited Bangladesh numerous times throughout my childhood I had never been exposed to the worst of these conditions. Seeing the children suffering really opened my eyes to the terrible conditions that were happening in MY OWN COUNTRY! That really strengthened my resolve to try to help DCI's efforts once I returned to UT. This semester Lira Chowdhury and I are planning on working with DCI chapter at UT to start raising awareness of this. I feel that at this time Bangladesh really hasn't been getting the help or attention that it requires and deserves; my goal is to help reverse this trend. My hope is that through my work, DCI will be able to better serve my country and that my fellow countrymen will have the necessary tools to work themselves out of their undesirable situations. My dream is to one day visit a thriving Bangladesh where, even if poverty has not been completely wiped out, its citizens will know that there is hope for their country.

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