

## Inspired to Help: Two Tampa Students Make a Difference

For the past 4 years, a group of 8th grade students from Berkeley Preparatory School in Tampa, FL travel to the Dominican Republic on a mission trip. They spend a few days at the foundation, help where they can and return to their lives with a better understanding of the hardships people face around the world. While most of the students go back to business as usual, some have been inspired to continue to do something once they return home.

In 2008, while visiting the CFCF School, moved by the conditions the local students were living in, Andrew Stein gave his baseball glove to one of the children. The child's apparent gratitude for an old baseball glove surprised him and he realized he had made a difference in this child's life.

Upon returning home, inspired by his experience, Andrew established his own 501(c)3 charity, "Gear Up For The Dominican Republic," focused on collecting baseball equipment to provide Dominican children with the same opportunity to play baseball as Americans have. He said, "In America a pickup game of baseball can be found on every other street, but in the Dominican Republic, there is hardly enough equipment to start a simple game of pitch and catch."

After 6 months of work, Andrew delivered more than \$10,000 worth of baseball equipment to the CFCF and has raised hundreds of additional dollars through his wristband fundraiser.

Similar to Andrew, another Berkeley student, **Jacob Rice**, was inspired to contribute to the children of the CFCF. Prior to his trip to the Dominican, **Jacob** founded a 501(c)3 charity, Shoegiver of Tampa,



which donates shoes to needy children. Although it was originally focused on helping children in the Tampa area, **Jacob** saw his school trip as a unique opportunity to reach children in the Dominican Republic.

When **Jacob** traveled to the Dominican Republic this year, he brought over 700 pairs of shoes for the Cigar Family students with him.

While **Jacob** and Andrew both made significant impacts on the lives of these children, they realize the dire needs for



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the region that still exists.

*"The places we saw on our trip were some of the poorest places I have been to," said **Jacob**. "These people need much to better their lives so it is important we help them."*

The CFCF has continued to grow because of the generosity and dedication of people like Andrew and **Jacob**. We applaud them for all of their hard work and sincerely thank everyone who has contributed to our dream of changing the world, one child at a time.

