A Volunteer Service Meaningful to Me

Mahatma Gandhi once said: “People who are capable to give freely are people who could live freely.” Shu-Ju Chen asked no repay and donate most of her earnings to charities, Jian-En Lian devoted himself to helping African people to put up a better environment. After hearing their stories, a question struck my mind: how can I do something to others like them? The idea occupied my brain for weeks, until I saw a news on the official website of Major League Baseball. The balded headline read: “Roger Clement’s Baseball Camp for Challenged Kids.”

As for me, I am an amateur baseball player since I took part in the baseball team of my junior high before, and I still hold on it as my extracurricular interest. The summer camp seemed so attracting to me that I couldn’t help clicking in the news to understand more, Roger Clement, one of the best pitchers ever, retired few years ago, then he dedicated himself to a lot of charity events. The baseball camp for the disabled is held by him annually, he would go there and enjoy baseball with these kids all day long. To me, his behavior is like holding a gleam of hope in the darkness for those being considered unable to participate in any sport games in their lives. Upon seeing such a meaningful event, I determined to be a staff there once to feel the enthusiastic, heart-touching atmosphere on my own. Realizing that the qualification calls for English ability, baseball skills, and a heart urging to accompany the innocent kids, I started to work on that at once, in order to become a voluntary staff of the camp.

In the meanwhile, I googled some more information about the camp. Some clips really grabbed my heart. In the clip, I saw some kids who only have one hand, but they still did their best to catch, to throw, and to swing. I couldn’t distinguish them from normal kids, since their confidence in the eyes were so fascinated. There were also some kids that couldn’t see very well, although they really had difficulties doing basic actions, but the crazy emotion when they accomplished a defence play really delighted everyone else in the camp. I also saw some kids who were not talented, they had to spend triple time to learn very same things taught together. The staff still inspire them little by little without any frown on their faces. After the kids finally understand something, the gratitude showed was definitely unexpected, some voluntary staff even bursted into tears. But a kid impressed me the most. Span, a teenage boy who lost one of his feet in a car accident, didn’t give up his life and even tried various sports to play. In the end, he chose baseball, owing to the encouragement by the camp. He fell over again and again while practicing, but he always climbed up with a cane and asked to continue the trainings. With his persistance and perseverance, Span finally become a player that could do exactly the same as the teammates. In the end, Roger Clement gave every kid a warm embrace and exchanged farewell.

Roger Clement once cheered the participants: “There is no difference between disabled and abled, the only difference is between willing or unwilling to try.” If they could overcome their obstacles in which Almighty offered, why can’t I apply it on my own, or even take their cases to inspire more people in the world? Despite the fact that my peers mocked at my insane thoughts every now and then, my parents still stood for the only prop to me. If it were not the camp, I wouldn’t improve my English ability by leaps and bounds. If it were not the camp, I wouldn’t have the chance to seek for a part-time job desperately to supplement my travel costs. If it were not the
camp, I wouldn’t learn that one should give up only when hell freezes over. If it were not the camp, I wouldn’t see the beauty of the humanity and our society. If it were not the camp, I wouldn’t deprive such precious experiences that varied my attitude toward the life. It is no doubt that the camp thoroughly influenced my life.

Roger Clement uttered a line on a press conference about the baseball camp, he said that he was not born to live his life but be bound to aid others to live a marvelous live like he does. Now, it is my turn to take charge of lightening others’ lives. I, a qualified voluntary staff of Roger Clement’s Baseball Camp for Challenged Kids, is setting off to Boston next summer, to share my love with these kids without question.