

A CHARITABLE LIFE

The Krista Foundation for Global Citizenship

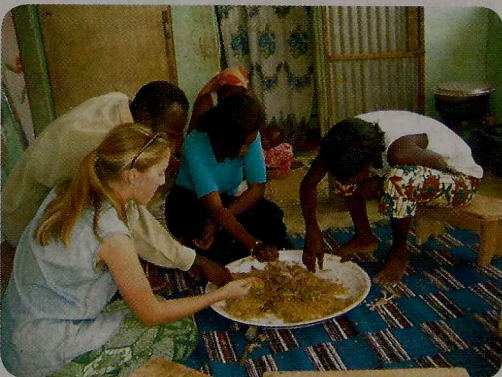
From the time Krista Hunt Ausland attended Mead High School, she knew the significance of impacting her world on a global level. After being nominated for Spokane's Lilac Princess in 1991, Krista bravely delivered a speech on justice for people in Guatemala.

Becoming a teacher and getting married brought her happiness, but Krista would not be content until she had given all she had to those who needed it most. Hoping to eventually work in international public policy, Krista began planning how she might embrace the culture of the people she someday hoped to advocate.

In 1998, at age 25, Krista and her husband Aaron began a three-year volunteer term working as community development volunteers in a rural valley tucked away in Bolivia. After attending language school in Santa Cruz, Krista's work within the community, known as Bañado de la Cruz, abruptly ended when she was killed in a tragic bus accident.

Allowing their grief to spill over into a well of compassion and creativity, Krista's parents, Linda and Jim Hunt, began the Krista Foundation for Global Citizenship in 1999. While many know of the Hunts through their work as professors at Whitworth College, others might remember Linda Lawrence Hunt as the author of the award-winning book *Bold Spirit*.

Together the Hunts have a combined



Courtney Cossey sharing a meal.

50 years of leadership working with young adults in their twenties. The non-profit organization, named in memory of their daughter, is based on Krista's vision for her life which she penned as "showing God's love in actions."

A key priority for the Krista Foundation involves embracing young people in their passion to make a difference in the world. Whether working in urban America, developing nations, or in environmental stewardship, the Foundation seeks to enrich the volunteer experience and provide pivotal leadership training during the post-volunteer years.

Since the first class of "Krista Colleagues" in 1999, the Foundation has accepted 15-18 young adult leaders from the Pacific Northwest each year. In 2008, the Foundation received 60 applications from volunteers hoping to become Krista Colleagues. The colleagues are nominated by teachers, pastors and civic leaders.

To assist volunteers in developing their skills, a \$1,000 Service and Leadership Development Grant is awarded to each selected colleague. Colleagues utilize grant funds in a manner that increases their capacity to provide quality volunteer service and leadership.

For example, in 2007 Megan Hurley, a Jesuit volunteer and Gonzaga alumna, served as a case manager at Portland's newly launched Recuperation Care Program, providing 30-day medical respite for homeless individuals with acute medical needs. She used her grant funds to attend a national conference on housing and homelessness. By the end of her volunteer year, Megan had used her new found knowledge to expand the respite program from serving one hospital with five respite beds to serving five hospital systems with 26 beds.

Beyond the grant, the Krista Foundation also supports their colleagues through an annual Service Ethics and Leadership Development Conference held over Memorial Day at Clearwater Lodge in Newport, just north

of Spokane. The upcoming 2009 conference will open its doors to the public on Sunday, May 24th featuring the commissioning of the new Krista Colleagues and an inspiring key note speaker.

Winter debriefing retreats are held near Jim and Linda Hunt's Spokane house in a guest center named "The Hearth." The retreat gives colleagues a chance to reflect on the challenges and joys of intense volunteer terms while fostering "a lifelong ethic of service, civic engagement and global understanding."

Valerie Norwood of Seattle serves as the program director for the Krista Foundation. A charter Krista Colleague, she volunteered in Kenya in 1999 where she taught preventative health care and entrepreneurial skills to middle school-aged girls. She views her service as a rich time of learning about another culture as well as her own self. In describing how young adult volunteers benefit through their experience, Valerie says being involved in service work similar to Krista's "shapes values in a positive way."

The Foundation's logo, intended to show two people dancing and celebrating God's love in actions while forming the letters K and F, demonstrates the remarkable attitude her parents and friends have taken. While they could never deny the tragedy which took Krista from them, they have chosen to embrace the life she lived. In turn, this unending embrace enables countless people to experience the joy of life lived to its fullest. ☺

For more information, visit their recently updated website at www.kristafoundation.org, e-mail service@kristafoundation.org or call 206-382-7888.

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