

My daughter Carly has had the great pleasure and opportunity of joining Dave Aldrich and Grab the Torch on three occasions. Please allow me to share the timeline for this relationship with you as I have observed as a parent.

A handful of weeks before the Connecticut program, Carly received an invitation to join. At the time, GTT was not a camp or opportunity that we were aware of, however, as a parent; I trusted the Ethel Walker and sent Carly with her backpack and mind wide open. At the end of an action packed, energy filled, connected thinking week, I picked up a young leader further aware of the opportunities to service the needs of others.

Servicing others was not a new concept for Carly: She has always been extremely observant of her surroundings and mentally challenged herself to evaluate the relationships of all people. But with GTT, Carly felt aligned and introduced as an equally capable person to make a difference. In that short blitzing week, Carly had found a connection with others that she did not want to let go. And she didn't. As a result of introductions and GTT project sessions, Carly maintained contact with a representative from Middlebury College's Center of Social Entrepreneurship and was invited to participate in a February 2012 symposium. Social responsibility was now imprinted in Carly's ambitions and this invested learner had now found a place to exchange high level, problem solving connected thinking for others and with others.

Dave Aldrich stayed in touch and invited Carly to participate in the upcoming 2012 summer sessions in CT and VT. Carly was excited and ready to experience where the next level of GTT would lead her.

Juggling a political internship, Carly was only able to join the CT session for one riveting day; however, when I met up with her, she glowed. An individual like Carly is most at home in the presence of like minded intellects discovering and outlining possibility.

She looked forward to her week in Vermont...and when that day came...she was ready: Ready to represent strength and prepare to assume the position of next generation philanthropists. From the moment I left her in Burlington, I think I can count on one hand the number of text messages I received. Dave had filled a week's long agenda with meeting esteemed political representatives, successful and self sustaining farmers, organizations that educate and provide and role models from the 30/30 Leadership Counsel to bounce off ideas. Carly's post camp conversations detailed synaptic activity in high gear prepared to methodically compartmentalize what she had experienced and transfer into future goals. The people she met

were genuine people. The places she visited were real. And the impact these people were making on the lives of others was observed. I could see the computer processing in her mind go through the split second motions of 'File-Save As-Methodologies to Give Back That Work'. The fostering of these ambitions in whole child development is a gift. And to Dave, I give thanks.

Dave, Grab the Torch and Carly equal the feeling of "I can do this." Dave puts the kids in touch with people: Prestigious people who love what they do, want to share what they do, enjoy the inquiring minds of the kids and who allow the kids to be a part of their offerings. Servicing others can be overwhelming: There are so many people who need guidance and so many ways to reach them. GTT makes giving tangible. The presenters are both locally sourced and globally recognized but regardless, they approach the kids as equals, present and engage as advocates and encourage the kids that their goals are attainable. In all essence they invite these young adults to grab the torch with them and search to create opportunities all around the world. On a small scale, the kids feel a part of their organization...and feeling a part of a whole increases interest and ultimately achievement.

With the support of Grab the Torch, my daughter is discovering her inner philanthropist.