

COPI article for the RocKey

By Lien Vu

One day at the end of March, I came to the United States with my friend Van. It was winter time and very cold. Coming down from the airplane, we walked along the passage way after a long flight. All of a sudden I heard somebody calling us from behind our back, "Lien and Van!" We turned around and realized it was Mr. Harris and Ms. Fuller, who we met on a medical trip two years ago. What a lovely memory that I will never forget! After saying goodbye to our fellow traveler, Mrs. Frannie, we came to Ms. Fuller's house where we had our first night in the United States. For such a special night, we didn't sleep. Although we were tired after the long trip, we were so happy to meet nice people who we had not seen for a long time. We were happy to begin a pleasant itinerary in the United States.

For the beautiful first day in the United States, we were so surprised to see lots of snow which we had never seen before in Vietnam. We were excited to make a snowman and took some lovely pictures.

The time was passing quickly. We had a good time in the United States with the friendly people and lots of good friends in Key Club. We visited and talked to Key Clubbers from seven high schools, three middle schools, and four primary schools. We also visited and talked with Kiwanis Clubs in Lakewood, Steamboat Springs, and Green Mountain in Colorado. In Wyoming we met the Kiwanis in Riverton. These meetings were a good opportunity for me to improve my English and learn how to become a good English teacher in the future.

Besides visiting schools, hospitals, and museums, we also did things for fun. Van and I went ice skating with Mario, Phuc, and some Key Club members from Standley Lake High School and Peak to Peak Charter School. We played soccer with Key Clubbers in Greeley and Parachute. That was a really good time. We went skiing with Mrs. Tori, Mr. Darl, and Charlie Olson who are in Kiwanians. Van and I rode horses too.

When Van and I visited Wyoming, we went to Yellowstone with Mrs. Gay Hughes, Andee Novotny, and her friend. Yellowstone is very beautiful. We were so surprised by lots of snowy mountains, animals, and especially the hot water. This was interesting for me to see boiling water which I had never seen before.

After Van went home, I went fishing with Mr. Harris. I planted flowers, went for walks, and watched movies with Ms. Fuller. Mrs. Tori has taught me how to knit, how to sew, and how to cook. I have also been going to English class in downtown Denver. I was so excited! I met lots of new friends who came from all over the world. We learned about each other and how to speak English. I am so excited because my English is much better than when I came here.

Words that I have learned about Key Club are union, enthusiastic, compassionate, dynamic, and creative. Meeting Key Clubbers I learned how to be a good leader, to help my friends in my high school and people in my community. As Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." I believe that Key Club can change the world; change the life of poor children like us. Next week I am going to Dallas for ICON. I'm

looking forward to seeing new friends. This is a place where people can exchange ideas, learn from each other, and make new friends.

I have learned about myself too. I am self-confident, have an inquiring mind, and love everybody. Like the sentence, "Travel teaches tolerance", I think that making friends is happiness that I can bring back to Vietnam.

On our trip I also met lots of Vietnamese who live in the USA. I will never forget Mr. and Mrs. Tran in Louisville, Mrs. Suzanne Michaelis and her friend Jennifer Fleming in Parachute, Ms. Wendy Duong, and Mr. Ha. I want to say thank you to all of them for helping me. They are very kind. They helped me so much and have made me feel more self-confident while I live so far from my home.

I want thank the American families who kept me in their homes when I visited Loveland, Greeley, Glenwood Springs, and Steamboat Springs in Colorado. I also thank the people of Riverton, Wyoming. I was very happy to stay with everyone and learn about American culture. They were all so hospitable and helpful. That makes me think that love always spreads wherever we go.

I have a special thank you to Mr. Harris, Mrs. Fuller, Mr. and Mrs. Rybacki, Mrs. Merritts, Mrs. Hughs, Mrs. Shanon Jones and all the members of Kiwanis Clubs for everything they did for me. They really are second parents of mine. Thank you to Danika, Lani, and Megan who are like my sisters. They always helped me when I needed it. Thank you to Mario Hernandez, Phuc Tran, Andee Novotny, and all of the Key Clubbers for helping me with everything. Your friendliness made me feel that I am always welcomed. Again, thank you so much for everything. This trip will be a sweet memory which I will never forget in my life.