

By **RACHEL MILLER**
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Some kids grow up wanting to be doctors. Others grow up wanting to be teachers. But this year's Project Serve coordinator Michael Miguel grew up knowing he wanted to dedicate his life to the promotion of social justice.

After visiting his great-grandmother in the Philippines when he was 8 years old, Miguel, a senior, decided to dedicate his life to serve the world and promote positive change.

Miguel recalls his great-grandmother pulling him aside and talking to him about his hope and ability to serve others.

"She said: 'To know about these problems and not do anything about it is to turn your back on your family,'" Miguel recalled. "It was something that stuck in the back of my mind even though I didn't fully understand it at that moment."

After coming to Pepperdine from his native country of Guam, Miguel was able to see the idea of volunteering in a new light, as he started working at the Volunteer Center and living out his passion.

This is Miguel's second year as Project Serve coordinator.

"No one has ever done the job twice, because no one has ever wanted to do the job twice," Miguel said. "They asked me if I was to get this position again, 'do you think you would have the same level

of motivation and passion,' and I told them that this program has helped change my life and transform me."

On Friday, Nov. 4, Project Serve held the Revelations event where the volunteers found out, through a travel-themed scavenger hunt, where they would be going in the spring. Some of the new locations include Fiji, Ecuador and Costa Rica.

"Initially, people are going to be drawn to location," Miguel said. "But it is focused on the service."

Now that the team leaders have been chosen, Miguel's focus has shifted to fundraising and supporting the leaders to stay motivated.

A large fundraiser is held by the Volunteer Center,

but each team also has to fundraise on its own. Some fundraising efforts include selling T-shirts and volunteering for shuttle runs, where students will be given rides to the airport for Christmas break.

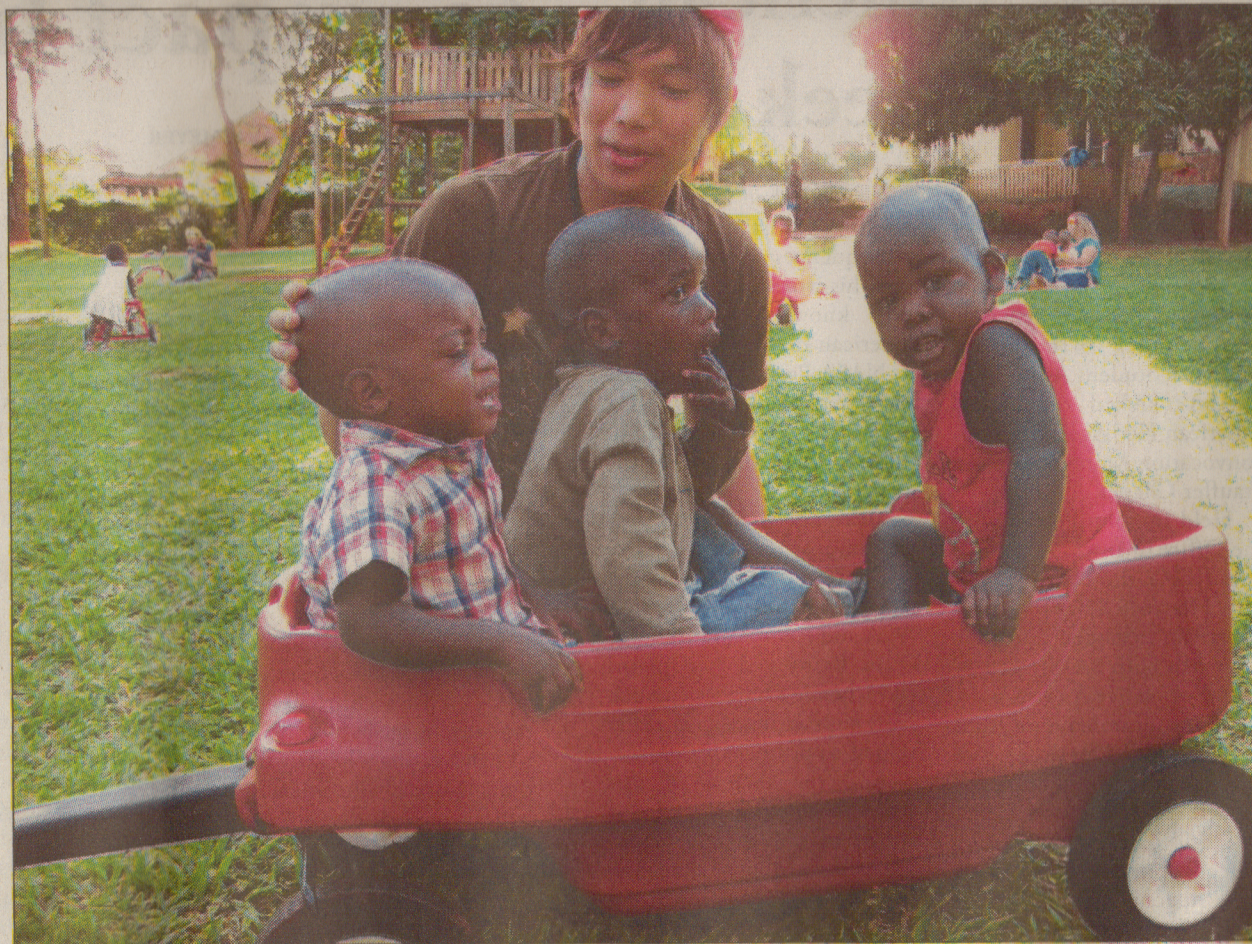
Part of Miguel's job, along with his co-coordinator Elizabeth Johnstone, is teaching the team leaders how to remain focused throughout the process. A lot of their inspiration comes from personal accounts of service.

Throughout his time in the Project Serve program, Miguel has traveled to Honduras, the Dominican Republic and Chicago. This year, he plans to go to Seattle.

"I love all of them equally, but nothing can take away from my first experi-

"He would never ask for thanks or recognition. He does everything out of the goodness of his heart because he believes service is his calling."

-MATTIE GULLATT



NATHAN KREIS

Michael Miguel spends time with orphans in Jinja, Uganda in the summer of 2009. Miguel lived his passion through this volunteering experience as a part of the East Africa international program.

ence in Honduras," Miguel said. "It reminded me how simple actions can really change lives."

During this trip, Miguel and his team were asked to get over-the-counter hygiene supplies like dental floss and toothpaste and bring them into a medical clinic. He remembers an elderly woman crying at the thought of students coming so far to help.

"It was just very simple things that you can get at CVS, but they thought that it was such a blessing," Miguel recalled.

After experiencing so much from his travels, Miguel hopes to further his life of service by going into law and becoming a human rights and immigration lawyer. His end goal is to return to Guam and go into politics.

Although this is his last year at Pepperdine and in the Volunteer Center, Miguel hopes that people will remember his time in Project Serve through his level of passion for volunteering.

"If I was going to leave a legacy, I would want to make sure as many students had the same opportunity as me

to have that kind of transformation," Miguel said.

Fellow member of the Volunteer Center and senior Mattie Gullatt believes that Miguel's selfless nature will take him far in his life of service.

"He would never ask for thanks or recognition," Gullatt said. "He does everything out of the goodness of his heart because he believes service is his calling."

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