

Discovering Deaf Worlds on RidorLive.com

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Posted by ridor9th on July 11th, 2007

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This week, Discovering Deaf World is the latest addition to RidorLIVE.com's Spotlight of the Week!

Last year, David (DJ) Justice and Christy Smith came up with an idea during the family trip to Mexico. They wanted to travel across the globe. But they ultimately came up with a noble idea. The ultimate idea is to travel around the world and to collect the stories from its own deaf people in its countries, deaf leaders in their respective countries as well as providing the resources to whoever might needed it to achieve their goals.



Some of you may know Christy Smith, she starred in CBS' television reality show, **Survivor: The Amazon** and **Christy's Kids: Challenge Yourself!** Not only that, I happen to know Christ Smith from Gallaudet. See? Gallaudet tends to bring the world smaller, really!

Dave (DJ) Justice grew up in Rochester (Or Rocha-cha-cha as he proclaimed it to be) but he did not learn American Sign Language until he met a certain person in Alaska. Ashamed that he knew only of fingerspelling, he returned to Rochester and took the ASL classes at NTID.

In fact, DJ mentioned that he was considering going to the massage school as well. So he decided to leave the decision to the Fates by flipping a coin to decide for him. Tail = Go to ASL classes, head = Go to the massage school. It was tails, all right. Basically, it snowballed from there, he went to the interpreter program in Colorado and met Christy Smith several times before working with her for a month at Aspen Camp for the Deaf.

Upon returning to Rochester, they had been working on this particular idea, **Discovering Deaf Worlds** and DJ wrote, "I have a strong feeling that this first year-long adventure around the world is just the start of DDW. we make a helluva good team and potential to take this in many directions that will present themselves. it has been a wild and crazy idea from the start, but we both are little wild and crazy so its all good."

Together, DJ and Christy are working on to visit Nepal, China, Thailand, Kenya, Australia, India, New Zealand and Japan.

But wait a minute! That is not all they intended to do. They intend to provide **the resources** to an individual, a school or an organization that might need some kind of support to achieve their goals. Fabulous, is it?

Right now, they are seeking for financial contributions to support the duo in doing this project that may make a difference in others' lives. The goal is to raise \$60,000 or more. In less than 5 weeks, they are now at \$18,500 (As of today)! That is quite impressive. For further information on how to make a contribution or sponsorship, check **this link**.

Anyone else can contribute. Be it an individual or a corporate company, it helps the DDW project to accomplish something nice — that is to support another Deaf individual or organization overseas.

A couple of corporations are sponsoring the DDW project as well, they are **Up Your Image** and **Rowe Photo**.

Not only that, the DDW also maintained **a blog of its own** to keep abreast of what will accomplish. And you can sign up for a newsletter at **this link**.



After talking with DJ, it is clear that they have such a passion to reach the Deaf people throughout the world. DJ mentioned that they are working to leave Rochester for the world by the end of October, 2007.

Contribute \$5 or 5,000 is always worthy for any cause when it comes to something we love or is close to our heart. Do your part, readers. Spread the word.

Cheers,

R-

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