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A Story To Tell: My Unforgettable Experience

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Isabela Jimenez

A Story To Tell: My Unforgettable Experience

May 12, 2024, the day that started my eye-opening experience in Costa Rica. As our plane touched down in San Jose, I felt a mix of nerves and curiosity for the journey ahead. This was not like any other trip; it was an opportunity to immerse ourselves in the heart of social justice work and to understand the real challenges and triumphs of the communities striving for a better future.

Every destination we entered we were greeted warmly by the locals, their smiles genuine and welcoming despite the hardships they faced daily. In every speaker we had you could hear the passion they had in what they advocated to us. One of the most touching moments on the trip for me was meeting Nicaraguan musicians who were refugees in Costa Rica. I was never aware of the corruption going on and the daily challenges Nicaraguans are facing. I felt an immediate heartbreak hearing each of their stories and how many fled their country and were unable to return. Many of them have been hiding and have been separated from their own family. These artists have found a powerful means to convey the truth, inspire change, and unite people through the universal language of music. With every strum of a guitar and every beat of a drum, they wove tales of corruption, oppression, and the relentless spirit of a people yearning for justice. Their music serves as a reminder that even in the darkest of times, the power of art and the human spirit can shine brightly, igniting hope and inspiring change.

Each day was filled with activities that pushed us out of our comfort zones. Some days included workshops where we learned some cultural activities. That included making chocolate, chiseling, making traditional foods, exploring nature, and connecting with the community. We spent some of our evenings reflecting on our experiences, sharing the moments we felt were important to our peers. Peers who by the end of the trip felt like family. I have never had an experience where I joined a group where everyone just clicked. Everyone received each other with open arms and an open heart. Not once did I feel judged by anyone in our group. I got to create such a close-knit family and for that I am grateful.

By the end of the trip, I felt a deep sense of gratitude and a renewed sense of purpose. The experiences and lessons learned in Costa Rica will stay with me forever. Reminding me of the power of community and the impact we can have when we work together for a common cause.

Here are some of my special moments

