

# Diouheratou Traore '08



Graduation from the University of Indianapolis is still two years away for nursing student Diouheratou “Era” Traore, but that hasn’t stopped her from planning for her future. After she goes on to earn a master’s degree and a PhD, she then plans to return to her native Guinea in West Africa to open a chain of nonprofit hospitals with the help of the United Nations and other nongovernmental agencies. “As a nursing major,” she said, “I really believe that helping others is my calling. It is through volunteering that I learned what I really wanted to do with my life.”

During her time at the University, Era has spent much of it involved with service activities both on and off campus. She helped serve food to the homeless at Fletcher Place Community Center. She helped plan activities for children at the Laurelwood Community complex. She worked with Circle K to help demolish old houses. On top of all that, she took time to visit the elderly at Fountain Square to play games, talk, or just listen.

Her on-campus activities are just as numerous: Campus Program Board member, orientation assistant, and intramural sports player. Not one to sit around and be bored, Era is currently in the process of filling out an application to be a volunteer at the Boys and Girls Club in Indianapolis.

Looking back on her years at UIndy, Era recalls her times at Fountain Square as among her best memories. “My favorite volunteer activity was being with the elderly at Fountain Square,” she said. “I learned a lot from them, and they were so grateful and happy to have someone to talk to. I had a wonderful time.”

Era’s interest in serving others started her freshman year at UIndy when she was a pre-med and economics major. “In my hometown,” she said, “we did not have many opportunities for community service in school. But doing service projects here at the University has instilled in me a strong desire to help others.”

Era feels fortunate to have been raised in a loving environment. “I am blessed to have the things that I have, and to have had good experiences growing up,” she said. “We sometimes take things for granted such as the ability to go to college, to be raised in a loving home with two parents in a safe environment, and to always have enough to eat. Many people are not able to satisfy their basic needs such as having three meals a day, a place to live, enough money to go to college, or someone to guide them in the right direction. I want to help those in need as much as I can; it gives more meaning and a purpose to my life.”

After leaving UIndy, Era will continue to help the community here in Indianapolis before eventually going back home to Guinea. “Helping someone does not have to be significant,” she said. “It can be as simple as helping an older lady carry her groceries, or helping a child with homework, or working a few hours for agencies whose main purpose is to help the needy. There are so many ways one can help; it just involves becoming aware.” —Jennifer Huber

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