

TRACY & STACY VILSAINT WORLD TRAVELERS

**“WE NEVER DREAMED
WE’D BE ABLE TO DO
SOMETHING LIKE THIS.”**

Overseas travel wasn’t on the radar for twin sisters, Tracy and Stacy Vilsaint. But what once seemed impossible, became very real. How? The QUEST Scholarship Fund, which was established at the Community Foundation by Debbie Veatch and Suzanne Sebert, who were both exchange students themselves years ago.

The two set up the QUEST fund to enable them and others – to contribute and give high-achieving students in underserved communities the opportunity to spend a summer overseas. As it turned out, Tracy traveled to Ghana and Stacy to Costa Rica to participate in educational and cultural exchange programs which included home-visits.

Both discussed their travels with enthusiasm, excitement, and for Tracy a moment of solemn reverence.

“I visited slave castles on the coast of Ghana and stood in the rooms and felt what people – my people – went through,” Tracy recalled. “People died there, my ancestors went through this.” Tracy said the visit gave her a better understanding of African-American history and helped her become more culturally aware. Stacy credited her travels with giving her a greater sense of confidence. “I’m not a twin anymore,” Stacy explained. “I found my voice – and in Costa Rica, it was speaking Spanish!”

Both said they want to travel more and are grateful for the new friendships. “We gained two new families,” Stacy said. “Our in-country host families, and the people of QUEST – Debbie, Suzanne and the other scholarship students. We all share a special bond.”



CHALLENGE

**Social
Equity &
Educational
Access**



FUND ORIGIN DATE

2016



LIVES TOUCHED

**12 Students
70 Donors**