



Youth Award Winner - Regional Profile

Zara Thomas

What is your job title?

Youth volunteer.

Explain what a typical day at OSCAR is like for you?

Arrive at 8.40 am. Make sure all children have been signed into the programme. Organise for each child to receive a sticky name tag. Supervise children using the pool table. If on an excursion, assist the leader to supervise children in vehicles. Take main responsibility for 5 children assigned to me. Interact with the children and assist them to resolve conflict if necessary. Ensure that children are signed out of the programme.

How long have you worked in OSCAR?

3 years.

What do you feel your greatest achievement has been in OSCAR?

My greatest achievement in OSCAR has been my availability to the programme every day for the past 3 years. Also, our OSCAR centre gives the volunteers a \$10 koha per day and I have always given this money back to the centre to help pay the fees for my little brother to attend the holiday programme. My living situation has been difficult and I have had to go without a lot. I don't want my brother to have to miss out also. I love children and despite what has happened in my life, I have remained committed to the holiday programmes. For me, its not about what I can get out of it, it's about giving back, so kids can have a better quality of life. The children bring a lot of joy to my days, in fact when we've been out on trips, several times now, holiday makers observing the fun that the children and I are having, have asked to join us. There's always room for a few more, and as a result of this inclusion, we have had several new families join our OSCAR programme.

Why should you become The OSCAR Foundation National Award winner?

