

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Newman spends summer volunteering



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Nicole Newman made 60 pillowcases in 60 days to donate to "A Bed for Every Child."



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PLYMOUTH - Nicole Newman, a South Plymouth resident and junior at Notre Dame Academy in Hingham, spent 74 days this summer immersed in community service.

June 14, only a few days after school got out, she traveled to Peru on a two-week service trip through Cross Cultural Solutions. She travelled to the Lima airport on her own. There she met a Cross Cultural driver who took her to the homebase to meet fellow high school students from around the country.

The group of teens volunteered in the shanty town of Via El Salvador, which was created by the displacement of families due to the past Shining Path Terrorist group. This town had no running water nor electricity. Newman and the others worked in a soup kitchen and a prechool. They also painted a fence around the school as a beautification project.

Humbled by this experience, Newman wanted to continue helping others closer to home. She researched various organizations on the Internet and came across the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless' "A Bed for Every Child" program. She travels extensively and always takes along her pillow from home for comfort, so she knew exactly what she wanted to do. She pledged to make 60 pillowcases in 60 days for this cause. The pillowcases were all in fun prints, like Dora the Explorer, Disney's Cars, Spiderman, etc. She delivered these pillowcases in person at the end of August and is featured on

the Coalition's blog page at bedforeverychildma.org/blog/.

Newman has previously made smock dresses for an orphanage in Costa Rica, walker/wheelchair bags for Elder Services and table runners for the Appalachian community (all groups with which her school's Campus Ministry maintains a relationship). She has taught religious education to first-graders at St. Bonaventure Church in Manomet for two summer sessions. She is also a member of the Notre Dame Academy scholars program and track team, and is junior editor of the school newspaper and an elected member of the Student Council.