

Emily's unusual summer

One recent summer, Emily Hobson traveled to hot, sticky Madurai, India, to help the locals care for their livestock.

The livelihood of the Madurai people depends on the welfare of their animals, and through the volunteer program Projects Abroad, Hobson assisted with surgeries, vaccinations and animal-care clinics.

Hobson gained her animal husbandry knowledge at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, where she attends college thanks to scholarships from the Ventura County Community Foundation, including the James C. Basile Scholarship.

"I chose the animal science program at Cal Poly because it provides hands-on experience with animals that I would not be able to get at another school or in another major," said Hobson, of Santa Paula.



Photo courtesy of Emily Hobson
Emily Hobson, center, performs surgery on a dog in Madurai, India, with the assistance of two local veterinarians. She honed her skills in animal husbandry with the help of the James C. Basile Scholarship at VCCF.

Hobson hopes to return to India after she finishes school to aid another cause.

"They desperately need spay-and-neuter clinics for the dogs of Madurai, and I hope I am able to spend time helping there after vet school," Hobson said. "The trip helped me realize the many different ways I can serve others as a veterinarian."



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THE JAMES C. BASILE SCHOLARSHIP

The late Simi Valley attorney had great faith in the youth of Ventura County and believed an education is the most important thing for their future. Basile established his fund in 1999, and in its first dozen years it awarded some \$2 million in scholarships to Ventura County students working on their bachelor's degrees at California public universities and community colleges.

Philanthropic Stewards for Ventura County.