

## Bloom Where You Are Planted

By Kim Guy, XPLOR Resident at Hiram-Mantua, Ohio  
October 2014



*Kim Guy is a 2014-2015 XPLOR Resident living and working in Hiram-Mantua, Ohio. Her partner congregation in the XPLOR Program is Hiram Christian Church.*

I had a lot of expectations about what was going to happen this year. I believe expectations are a good thing. Sometimes. We can use expectations to hold ourselves and others accountable. But if those standards are unreasonable or unhealthy, then it is not good to have them.



I consider myself a perfectionist.  
I had painted a perfect picture of what this year was going to be like.

I thought I wanted to go to North Hollywood, California.  
Instead I was placed in Hiram-Mantua Ohio.

I thought I wanted to serve at one service organization.  
Instead I get to work with five different ones.

I thought I wanted to work alongside with my housemates at one local church.  
Instead each of us get to share our gifts with one ministry.

Something amazing has happened over this short time here at XPLOR.  
I have been challenged.  
I have been reaffirmed.  
I have seen God working in the people that I get to work with every day.  
I have begun to realize that everything I thought was going to happen was my plan.

But everything that has happened is God's plan.  
I know that I am right where I am meant to be.

I leave you with this quote from the movie "Facing The Giants":  
*The Lord is not through with you yet. You still have an open door here, and until the Lord moves you, you are to bloom right where you are planted.*

*The NBA XPLOR Project is a ten-month service residency opportunity for young adults ages 21-30, with the purpose of empowering young adults to discern and develop a "heart for care" as they live together in simple community, engage in direct service and justice work, engage in leadership development, and discern their vocational calls to honor the various communities they are called to serve.*