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International Voluntary Service Task Force: Improving Lives & Increasing Civic Engagement Through Hands-on Voluntary Service

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U.S. CENTER
FOR
CITIZEN
DIPLOMACY

U.S. SUMMIT & INITIATIVE FOR GLOBAL CITIZEN DIPLOMACY

NOVEMBER 16-19, 2010 | WASHINGTON, DC

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE

TASK FORCE

Improving Lives & Increasing Civic Engagement
Through Hands-on Voluntary Service



EVERY CITIZEN A DIPLOMAT

Published in conjunction with the
U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy's U.S. Summit & Initiative for Global Citizen Diplomacy
November 16–19, 2010, Washington DC.

Materials included in this document are the views of the submitting organization and are meant to serve as a tool for discussion.

Some proposals may be edited for length. Summary content is from original submissions by the organization, and was compiled by the U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy.

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Cover: Anjali Bhatia, 2008 National Awards for Citizen Diplomacy honoree (right), with women in the Republic of Rwanda in east-central Africa.

TASK FORCE PROCESS

The work of the nine Task Forces began in the fall of 2009, each one representing a specific area of international activity and citizen diplomacy. Each Task Force is led by two co-chairs and made up of members selected by the chairs themselves.

These nine groups met periodically throughout the year to determine guidelines for selecting proposals from organizations vying for a top ten best practices slot, the format and content of their presentation at the Summit, and drafting three measurable outcomes that will allow the U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy to monitor each Task Force's progress during the ten-year Initiative for Global Citizen Diplomacy – which aims to double the number of American citizens engaging in international activity and address the global challenges of the 21st Century.

The co-chairs were given complete control over the Task Force, including decisions that needed to be made regarding the process to solicit, accept and select the top ten proposals from organizations in their field. (*Note: If a Task Force member's organization submitted a proposal, that member was removed from the selection process to avoid conflict of interest.) The U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy has not and will not receive any compensation, monetary or in-kind, from the organizations or individuals on the Task Forces or organizations or individuals whose proposals were selected for the top ten. The selection of these top ten proposals was solely on merit and is the result of work completed by the individual Task Forces, not the U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy.

The top ten list for each Task Force was selected from a pool of applicants that submitted a two-page proposal with the intention of being considered in the top ten. If an organization did not submit a proposal, they were not under consideration for the top ten.

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INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE TASK FORCE

The year 2010 has been pivotal for the field of International Voluntary Service. Organizations and individuals committed to promoting sustainable solutions to global issues, broadening global citizenship, and fostering civic engagement have come together to build a movement to dramatically increase the number of international volunteers serving in communities around the world and demonstrate the profound impacts of the international volunteer experience. Recently, the launch of Service World by a broad coalition of service and policymaking figures brought our field to a new level of attention in Washington with serious recommendations to further advance the full potential of global service engagement under consideration by the Obama Administration and the Congress.

Communities throughout the world have long partnered with the hundreds of volunteer organizations that comprise our field, providing new ideas through cultural exchange, improved healthcare, and basic childhood education services among others; while breaking down stereotypes, supporting the missions of local organizations, and inspiring a lifelong commitment civic engagement to both international volunteers and to the individuals and communities with whom we partner. Research throughout our field, including a major research initiative undertaken by Washington University, prove the immense positive impacts that both short- and long-term voluntary service brings to the individual and to the community.

We are proud to share examples of the accomplishments that the dedicated members of our field are pursuing, and the opportunity through proposals for you to become involved in supporting the efforts to improve our world. We thank all of the members of our field for their commitment to pursuing our shared goals, as well as the specific members who have worked to prepare proposals to you today.

We look forward to achieving our shared goal of global citizenship and addressing global issues alongside you.

In partnership,

Steve Rosenthal

Executive Director, Cross-Cultural Solutions
Chairperson, Building Bridges Coalition

Steve Vetter

President & CEO, Partners of the Americas

David Caprara

Director, International Volunteering Project at Brookings
Co-Chairs International Voluntary Service

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE TASK FORCE MEMBERS

CO-CHAIRS

David Caprara Director, International Volunteering Project, Brookings Institution
Steve Rosenthal Executive Director, Cross Cultural Solutions
Steve Vetter President & CEO, Partners of the Americas

MEMBERS

Matthew Clausen Vice President, Partnerships and Programs, Partners of the Americas

Abigail Falik Founder & CEO, Global Citizen Year
Miriam Parel Deputy Director, Global Peace Service
Kevin Quigley President, National Peace Corps Association
Senator Harris Wofford Senior Advisor, Building Bridges Coalition

HOST AT SUMMIT

Chuck Montgomery Senior Managing Attorney, MidAmerican Energy Company; Treasurer, Board of Directors, U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE

The following International Voluntary Task Force’s measurable outcomes support the Initiative for Global Citizen Diplomacy’s goal of doubling the number of American citizen diplomats in the next 10 years.

OUTCOMES

Foster and improve health, education, and community development in communities throughout the world while increasing civic engagement through meaningful, hands-on voluntary service.

Promote citizen diplomacy and global understanding through cultural exchange and relationship building between individuals and communities throughout the world.

Increase the impact of international voluntary service through promoting research and building capacity for international volunteer organizations.

Atlas Corps, Inc.

Washington, DC | www.atlascorps.org

GLOBAL CHALLENGE(S) THAT INITIATIVE ADDRESSES

Preserving the Environment; Reducing Poverty and Disease; Increasing Respect for Human Rights; Creating a Globally Competent Society; Encouraging Cultural Understanding; Achieving Food Security

Atlas Corps Fellowship

Atlas Service Corps (Atlas Corps), a U.S.-based nonprofit organization, is an international network of the best nonprofit leaders and organizations that promotes innovation, cooperation, and solutions to address the world's most intractable challenges. Profiled as a "best practice" in international exchange by the Brookings Institution and featured in the Washington Post as a model social entrepreneurship program, Atlas Corps engages young nonprofit leaders in 12-18 month fellowships to learn best practices, share unique insights, and return home to create a network of global change makers who promote citizen diplomacy on an international scale. Nonprofit leaders from the United States serve in Colombia and international leaders from more than 15 different countries serve in Washington, DC. Through their placements with host organizations, they address critical social issues, generally the Millennium Development Goals, and engage in such issues as preserving the environment, reducing poverty and disease, increasing respect for human rights, encouraging cultural engagement, and achieving food security. The exchange of experiences allows for Americans to travel abroad, and equally important, the international Fellows bring their knowledge and experience to the United States and engage U.S. citizens in the workplace, through networking events, and as volunteers in their host community. The Atlas Corps Fellowship is a pilot program that is a unique example of citizen diplomacy that engages young people in the U.S. and around the world.

Our primary objectives are to use cross-cultural exchange and inter-cultural learning within the context of the nonprofit sector to:

- Develop nonprofit leaders.
- Strengthen organizations and promote innovation.
- Create a rising generation of global nonprofit leaders to address critical social issues.

Currently, the primary activity locations for Atlas Corps are Washington, DC, and Bogota, Colombia. The goal is to grow this pilot to engage 50 leaders from around the world in the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps in 2011. Currently, Fellows originate from more than 15 different countries on five continents. These young leaders interact with youth in the U.S. and overseas to give them a unique perspective on global citizenship—that no matter your race, ethnicity, or country of origin, we can all serve humanity. Hundreds of American youth interact with our Fellows each year through direct services provided through their work with the host organizations. An excellent example is Masoora Ali, a Fellow from Pakistan who serves at Asian American LEAD. As a Fellow, she developed, launched, and managed a girls leadership program. She translated her leadership experience gained through years of experience in the Pakistan's social sector into an empowerment program for young girls in Washington, DC. Masoora is a great example of how Atlas Corps leverages the strength of an international network to promote citizen diplomacy in the United States by bringing these international perspectives stateside. In a country as critical as Pakistan where there is youth bulge and vast misperceptions of American's understanding Pakistanis and Pakistanis understanding Americans, the Atlas Corps Fellow Masoora is the model citizen diplomat showing how young people can forge ties between countries through shared values and service. Additional host organizations that promote this direct cross-cultural exchange include: Ashoka's Youth Venture, Grameen Foundation, CentroNia, One World Youth Project, Service for Peace, the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, and the U.S. Peace Corps. We have partnerships signed with a

dozen host organizations ready to take more Fellows in 2011 and grow this pilot.

We combine theory with direct service to provide our Fellows and those they serve with a comprehensive experience that provides immediate as well as long-term impact. The experience is enhanced through the use of new technologies that unite this international network. Our primary tools include Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube, and organizational and individual blogs. Our followers include thousands of individuals who consistently share insight into service and social engagement. Our current Fellows regularly share their experiences on our blog (<http://www.atlascorps.org/blog.php>) and multiple social media outlets.

We give outstanding rising leaders, regardless of economic status, the opportunity to serve. Each Fellow receives a stipend to cover their living expenses throughout their year of service whether placed in the United States or Colombia. Fellows do pay a minimal enrollment fee (on average \$500) that demonstrates their commitment to participation and covers the initial logistics of travel and visa requirements.

As an organization, Atlas Corps operates on an \$800,000 annual budget, which includes all expenses related to Fellows, staff, and programs. A diverse funding model supports this economically efficient financial structure. Primary support is through a cost-share model whereas the host organizations cover about 70% of the expenses related to their Fellow—which still marks a significant savings from the cost of a full-time employee of this caliber. The remaining 30% of the budget is supported through individual donations, foundations, and government support. This revenue-generating model ensures the long-term sustainability of the organization. Further evidence of our sustainability is that the size of the organization has basically doubled each year since 2007.

As Atlas Corps, our vision is a truly global nonprofit sector where best practices, talent, and services cross borders with ease to efficiently and effectively serve the needs of the world community through international partnerships and collaboration. This goal will not only mean overseas leaders coming to the U.S. and Americans going abroad, but also leaders from South America volunteering in South Asia - a fluid sector where good ideas and leaders cross borders to address critical issues. Atlas Corps seeks to strengthen the world's nonprofit sector through international exchanges that develop leaders, strengthen organizations and build global social capital.

With time, Atlas Corps will eventually have 5,000 Fellows annually volunteering in approximately 100 cities around the world. Once a Fellow of Atlas Corps, these individuals have the opportunity to continue to participate in the network to support each other's work. A generation of global citizens building cross-cultural ties through international service will emerge not only well trained, but also well networked across borders.

For more information please contact

Scott Beale | CEO | scott@atlascorps.org

Global Citizen Year

Washington, DC | www.globalcitizenyear.org

GLOBAL CHALLENGE(S) THAT INITIATIVE ADDRESSES

Preserving the Environment; Reducing Poverty & Disease; Increasing Respect for Human Rights; Creating a Globally Competent Society; Encouraging Cultural Understanding

Gap Year Fellowship

By training a diverse corps of high school graduates and supporting them through apprenticeships with social enterprises across the developing world during a “bridge year” before college, Global Citizen Year is building a pipeline of leaders with increased cultural understanding, an ethic of service, fluency in a new language, and global competency. GCY Fellows enter college with real life experiences that prepare them to approach their studies and career with passion and purpose.

PROGRAM MODEL

Through an innovative cross-sector model, GCY partners with high schools and colleges in the US and NGOs around the world to create opportunities for emerging leaders to work as apprentices in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The following illustrates our holistic program cycle:

Select: Each year, GCY solicits student applications through a broad array of high school networks, college access programs, and universities to ensure diversity in our fellowship cohort. Once selected, Fellows defer college enrollment for one year to enroll with GCY.

Train: GCY collaborates with experts across various fields to implement an innovative curriculum that combines best practices in leadership, international development, social innovation, and language training.

- US Training Institute – Fellows develop frameworks for their experience; explore the current debates surrounding global development; and develop leadership skills.
- In-Country Orientation – Fellows engage in intensive language and cultural training while gaining a deeper understanding of their roles and their host organizations.
- On-Going Training- At monthly meetings, Fellows share insights, process their experiences, and engage with community leaders to ensure a collaborative, engaging, and supported learning experience.

Apprentice: The GCY apprenticeship is the heart of the program. During this 6-month period, Fellows work in a range of issue areas (public health, education, technology, environment) and with organizations across sectors (private, government, NGO) developing skills and contributing to local efforts.

Connect: Over the course of the experience, GCY provides training, equipment, and access to traditional and social media channels, enabling Fellows to connect with audiences across the US and around the world.

Transition: After the program, Fellows are prepared to approach college with greater intention and a clearer focus, and they are uniquely poised to contribute to their college community in new ways. Fellows continue to have access to GCY’s network of alumni and partners who enable them to re-envision their roles as global citizens over the course of their lives.

As a results-driven operation, GCY has a laser focus on measuring outcomes and impact against concrete metrics. To track progress around Fellow learning, GCY uses the following to gather data across each Fellow's participation with GCY:

- Short term outcomes: Application and pre-program surveys gather baseline data; weekly meetings with Team leaders; monthly meetings to measure progress; capstones, final surveys; and qualitative reports to measure learning and growth over 9-month period.
- Longitudinal impact: GCY is current in the process of developing a longitudinal survey which will be used to track our alumni over time and across a number of metrics including (but not limited to): college readiness/success, global/social engagement over time.

VISION

We envision a world in which a “global citizen year” becomes an integral and accepted step for students from all backgrounds. Future generations of Americans will better understand that their lives are intimately connected to others across our global community, and will act with conviction and conscience to create a more powerful and sustainable world.

A Global Citizen Year Revolution: By the year 2020

- 20,000 GCY Alumni will speak a second language and bring global insight to leadership across all sectors
- 10,000 host communities across the developing world will have direct exposure to the empathy and idealism which characterizes America's “Millennial Generation”
- 5,000 development projects- in education, health, and the environment – will have increased capacity to serve their beneficiaries.
- 250 US Universities will encourage students to take a global “bridge year”, and will support participation by providing financial aid to low-income students
- Increased resources – from the federal government, foundations, and corporations – will enable students from all background to engage in a global bridge year before college

COLLABORATIONS & SCALE

Global Citizen Year's early success has depended on collaboration with a wide range of partners. Through our inaugural media partnership with Current TV, we have developed a platform for amplifying our Fellows' stories reaching audiences far beyond our own website. Our work has also been featured in the NYT and Huffington Post, and we are actively soliciting new partnerships with traditional and new media companies.

Finally, through collaboration with the “Service World” coalition convened by the Brookings Institution, we have worked alongside other NGO's and policy makers to craft a new legislation that, if passed, would support a quantum leap in federal funding for international service beyond the Peace Corps.

Over time, we aim to formalize and strengthen partnerships with K-12 classrooms (for content/curriculum distribution), college access programs and college admissions offices, and an array of international organizations to help build a growing network of apprentice sites for our Fellows.

Finally, we view that strong private sector partnerships are also core to our philosophy, mission, and strategy. Each member of our management team holds an MBA, and our Board of Directors bring decades of private sector experience to inform our governance and growth.

We are currently exploring a range of private sector partnerships across the travel, media, and communications industries. Such collaborations – whether in the form of financial instruments, in-kind products and services, or partnership in training and apprenticeships, will be critical to our ability to scale our efforts in the years ahead.

Priorities in 2010-2011: Triple GCY Cohort to 34 Fellows | Double organizational budget to \$1.3M | Add two country sites – Brazil and Ecuador | Secure early college and corporate partners | Develop political advocacy strategy and campaign

International Partnership for Service-Learning & Leadership

Edison, NJ | www.ipsl.org

GLOBAL CHALLENGE(S) THAT INITIATIVE ADDRESSES

Preserving the Environment; Reducing Poverty & Disease; Increasing Respect for Human Rights; Creating a Globally Competent Society

International Partnership For Service-learning and Leadership Primary Objectives Of Initiative

- *Integrated study abroad experience:* The entire program — studies, service, living, and excursions — is designed to create a complex and varied experience of the culture while making the student's learning immediate and relevant, and therefore more meaningful.
- *Responding to Others' Needs through Civic Engagement:* Whether the volunteer service helps improve health or education, assists in community development, or alleviates suffering, the service provided by IPSL students addresses human needs which would otherwise go unmet. Learning to respond to the needs of others engenders a life-long commitment to civic engagement.
- *Multi-faceted Cultural Immersion:* IPSL students are not just academic tourists. They are immersed in several levels of the society, and contribute to the host culture through service. For example, one might attend an elite university; live with a middle-class family; and work with destitute street children.
- *Real Intercultural Understanding:* Through the combination of classroom theory and practical experience serving in a social agency, IPSL students develop a broad knowledge of the forces that shape the culture; an intimate and compassionate understanding of its peoples, customs, and traditions; and deep insight into the complex social issues and realities of the society.
- *Meaningful growth and personal insight:* IPSL students develop skills, discover talents, and gain meaningful personal insight about who they are, what they are capable of, and who they want to become. IPSL students often say their program experience stays with them for many years, helping to shape their values, aspirations, and career paths.

PRESERVING THE ENVIRONMENT

IPSL programs, through direct and indirect service, address real environmental problems that affect sustainability and economic development. Importantly, all IPSL service projects are based on meeting local needs, which are determined locally by the host community, not outsiders. Therefore, the service helps build capacity for long-term solutions to problems in the host community. In the Galapagos, IPSL students work on projects to help preserve the pristine marine environment of the islands. Our students have been involved in efforts to outlaw the horrendous and painful practice of killing sharks for their fins. They have also been involved in cross-cultural projects that focus on sustainable, responsible tourism between ecosystems within the same country (Ecuador).

In Guayaquil, our students are working on repairing a riparian zone that has affected the water levels and quality in an area river. This degradation of the river has, in turn, affected the livelihood of the subsistence and small, commercial fisherman that rely on the river for their survival.

REDUCING POVERTY & DISEASE

The key to breaking the cycle of poverty and disease is education. In Kolkata, India, for example, IPSL students are engaged in education projects with street children, children from the slums, and children who are forced to work in the brick factories on the outskirts of the city. They are also working with young adults whose livelihoods are greatly enhanced when they learn to speak and write English.

The venues vary, but the integration of IPSL students into on-going efforts to combat illiteracy means that our work helps build capacity for those community-based agencies that have been created from the grassroots to address the many side effects of Kolkata's crushing poverty. On a more immediate level, IPSL students assist agencies as they educate street children and those who live in the slums of Kolkata about the basics of hygiene and nutrition. We bring them to schools, teach them, cook for them, feed them, clothe them, and provide a safe haven from the perils of the streets.

CREATING A GLOBALLY COMPETENT SOCIETY

We fulfill the IPSL mission by offering higher education programs that unite academic study and volunteer service to communities in international/ intercultural settings, and by creating models for the practice of service-learning that emphasize partnerships with the host community, rigorous academic learning, substantive service, a clear connection between the studies and service, and reflection. Fundamental to our work is the concept of multilateral reciprocity — which students, educators, educational institutions, communities and others benefit mutually from the process and results of international/intercultural service learning. IPSL creates a space where individuals not only build a sense of commitment to each other, but also learn first-hand from and about people from other cultures. This intercultural commitment and understanding is the key to creating a society that is globally competent to address the challenges that affect all of us.

In short, the International Partnership for Service-Learning and Leadership values:

- Rigorous academic intercultural learning through real-life experience, study and reflection within the host society
- Substantive service that is beneficial for all stakeholders: students, postsecondary institutions, communities and those who are indirectly impacted
- Respect for differences in societies, cultures, and social institutions
- Collaboration with educational and community institutions to share best practices, ideas and resources in the field
- Leadership that models the ability to work effectively in a world that is both interdependent and diverse

IMPACT

IPSL has the opportunity to expand our programs to new locations. There is so much unmet need in the world, and U.S. students need to have the opportunity to learn about the world around them, gain a sense of commitment to giving back, and to build self-esteem by responding to the needs of others. With additional funds, IPSL could engage in more substantive program development in areas of the world where we have potential partners.

Inherent in our name and in our philosophy is the term “partnership.” The international service-learning programs that IPSL develops and manages are born of partnerships with U.S. and international institutions, domestic and foreign faculty, international service agencies, and many more people in the host community, all of whom work to sustain the academic rigor and meaningful service projects in which our students engage. This type of cross-cultural collaboration - the hallmark of IPSL for nearly thirty years - requires resources to launch pilot programs that, in turn, become sustainable, long-term programs in communities abroad. (IPSL has had a program in Kolkata for 24 years!) In addition, the collaboration around the service-learning focus of our programs helps to build a worldwide commitment to volunteerism, even in regions of the world where service is a relatively uncommon concept.

For more information please contact

Thomas Winston Morgan | President | twmorgan@ipsl.org

International Student Volunteers

Yorba Linda, CA | www.isvonline.org

GLOBAL CHALLENGE(S) THAT INITIATIVE ADDRESSES

Preserving the Environment; Reducing Poverty & Disease; Encouraging Cultural Understanding

International Student Volunteers

ISV's mission is to "Create a volunteer environment conducive to combining conservation, education, community development and recreation into the most incredible experience of a lifetime, while giving back to the local communities in the countries where we travel."

Our primary goals are to:

- Provide young people with the opportunity to volunteer overseas and give back to another culture
- Aid the conservation and community development efforts of local host organizations
- To facilitate an educational environment with lasting effects on the volunteers and host communities and encourage cultural understanding and volunteerism on a local level.

PRESERVING THE ENVIRONMENT

ISV partners with host organizations around the world to send student to volunteer on sustainable conservation projects. Projects include planting trees, weed eradication, environmental education, scientific research, data collection, wildlife sanctuary maintenance and endangered species care.

Each project is carefully coordinated with the host organization and local community to make sure it is sustainable managed and achieves specific outcomes. Host organizations range from well-known groups such as Conservation Volunteers Australia and Conservation International to smaller grass roots community groups trying to protect a particular species or area.

ISV also brings communities together and annually hosts a free conference each year for its host organizations so they may share issues, successes and advice on how to run the best project possible using their student volunteers. A small sample of key achievements from 2009 include:

194,566 trees planted | 67 miles of fencing built | 1300 miles of beaches patrolled and cleaned
8755 endangered turtle eggs relocated and 6718 new endangered turtles hatched

Endangered species preservation, care, rescue and research with animals such as dugong, macropod, bilby, wombat, Asian elephants, penguins, flying fox, sea turtles, dolphin, whales, brown bear, little blue penguins/ korora (world's smallest penguin), NZ fur seal/ kekeno great spotted kiwi pateke/ brown teal, gibbons, black-faced impala Vultures, cheetah, poison dart frogs and more

Conservation groups around the world have recognized ISV's volunteer efforts, with ISV staff being invited to speak and present research events such as the International Sea Turtle Symposium, and the WYSTC forum on volunteering.

REDUCING POVERTY & DISEASE

ISV partners with local host organizations and also runs its own volunteer programs focusing on community development in regions such as Thailand, The Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Ecuador, South Africa and Eastern Europe.

ISV's community development programs focus on empowering underprivileged youth and citizens through education, building community facilities and infrastructure and supporting community business initiatives.

ISV's projects are run in conjunction with the local communities and their leaders in an effort to develop a sustainable plan for the future. Projects include:

- A structured education program teaching English as hygiene in the Dominican Republic and Thailand
- ISV's health program - specifically targeting health education for underprivileged communities in the Dominican Republic
- Education and care for orphaned children and children at risk of child labor situations in Thailand

ENCOURAGING CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

ISV firmly believes that students are the future of our society. We also recognize many American students have very little awareness about other cultures, and the developmental and conversational issues that other countries face. The ISV program is the perfect place for student to learn about other cultures and how the rest of the world impacts on these nations.

ISV aims to tie volunteer, cultural and adventure elements into our program around an educational framework of cultural understanding. Participants keep a daily journal to reflect on their experience and during the volunteer project each group will take part in six groups discussions about the conservation/development issues, history, political situation surrounding that country. Often these discussions will have members of the community who are experts or leaders in the field of the discussions focus.

The educational rigor of ISV's program has been recognized by universities across the nation with over 140 universities offering academic credit to students through independent study and official partnerships with the University of California at Irvine and Auburn University in Alabama.

ISV also ensures that volunteers can experience the true culture of the host country by offering home stays on particular projects, and also providing project leaders who are locals and can share their local knowledge.

ISV aims to allow students to experience the real culture of that country on project, by utilizing the same food, accommodation traditional to that culture. Students are welcomed into the communities, who often host welcoming ceremonies and teach the students about traditions such as dance, food, music and so on. By learning as much as they can about their host community on project, student become equipped to take this knowledge and put it into practice on the tour part of ISV's program.

ISV's tour aims to balance cultural and environment exploration with adventure - to show participants the best that country has to offer. Tour components include activities such as cooking classes, temple visits, native cultural performances and so on, as well as eco-friendly adrenaline activities such was white water rafting, snorkeling and so on.

FUNDING

Due to the costs associated with the ISV program, many students cannot afford the opportunity to volunteer and make a difference overseas. For the 2009 summer program season, ISV received over 38,000 applications from students to travel with us. However only 4000 were able to travel. The overwhelming majority of students who didn't travel claimed this was due to financial reasons.

ISV is a Californian based non-profit and we receive no external funding for our program. The students' program fees fund the entire international operation.

ISV manages to set aside scholarship money's for students in need however there are thousands upon thousands of students who would greatly benefit from financial assistance or scholarships.

ISV wants to give the opportunity of volunteering to as many students as possible. Additional funding would allow more students to travel and give back to another country in need. Any funding would go 100% towards scholarships to students in need wishing to travel and volunteer overseas as our program and infrastructure is already well developed.

For more information please contact

Simon Costain | International Marketing Director | simon@isvonline.org

Legacy International

Bedford, Virginia | www.legacyintl.org

GLOBAL CHALLENGE(S) THAT INITIATIVE ADDRESSES

Increasing Respect for Human Rights; Creating a Globally Competent Society;
Encouraging Cultural Understanding

American-middle Eastern Young Adult Capacity-building and Cooperation Program

Goals: This pilot program, to be conducted collaboratively by Legacy International, International Center for Religion & Diplomacy, and the Lebanon-based Forum for Development, Culture, and Dialogue (FDCD), seeks to create globally competent young American and Middle Eastern citizens and to encourage greater understanding between the people of America and the Middle East. These aims will be achieved through:

- Enhancing skills that will enable participants to play an active role in building greater understanding and better relations between the Middle East and America.
- Facilitating dialogue on matters such as culture, faith, and political/international issues to enable participants to identify key issues in US-Middle East relations, better understand each other's points of view, dispel misperceptions, and identify opportunities for cooperation.
- Building cooperative and personal relationships between Middle Eastern and American young people.
- Producing joint recommendations for improving the US-Middle East relationship that all participants agree upon.
- Empowering participants to create their own collaborative, sustainable projects contributing to peaceful US-Middle East relations following the exchange.

Structure: The program will engage near-equal numbers of Middle Easterners and US citizens in joint activities for 9 days each in Lebanon and the US. Participants will be selected as cohort groups from similar niches in society to encourage meaningful, lasting relationships. We anticipate 30 per group (15 Americans and 15 Middle Easterners), and envision multiple groups comprised of university students, NGO professionals, educators, or emerging community leaders—i.e. those with the ability to positively impact their communities. Each cohort group will represent diverse viewpoints on issues, various nationalities and backgrounds (representing 3-5 Middle Eastern countries and various US ethnicities), various religious affiliations, and balanced gender membership. Funding will determine the number of groups.

Activities: Program themes will be tailored to specific group interests, selected from

- Training in dialogue skills, intercultural awareness, conflict resolution skills, leadership skills, and action-planning;
- Meetings with peace building, interfaith, religious, educational, and/or government leaders/institutions.
- Dialogue on issues of faith and culture (earlier stages), political/international issues affecting US-Middle East relations (later stages), and the creation of joint recommendations for improving US-Middle East relations upon which all participants can agree.

- Cooperative service project(s)
- Leadership development and action planning to empower participants to design initiatives they can implement when they go back to their home communities in order to foster intercultural understanding and peace building. Ideally, these efforts will be collaborative, thus fostering post-program sustainability. If sufficient funds are raised, seed grants will be offered to qualified participants' initiatives.

Relationship building, a major goal, will be supported through formal and informal recreational activities, excursions, and pairing roommates from different cultures.

Outcomes/Impact/Sustainability: Intended outcomes include:

- Greater global competence among the emerging generation of American and Middle Eastern citizen leaders, including greater awareness of issues affecting US-Middle East relations and different viewpoints on those issues.
- Concrete skills development in dialogue, intercultural awareness, conflict resolution, leadership, and action-planning—skills which can be immediately used at home
- Meaningful relationships built between American and Middle Eastern young people.
- A sustained communication network among participants for sharing best practices after the exchange via technologies including Facebook and Skype.
- Sustainable projects initiated by participants post-program to foster intercultural understanding and peace building and extend the impact of the program in their communities.
- Documentation of the process and outcomes of the program that can be publically shared through various technologies (e.g., YouTube or websites) to spread awareness and stimulate wider interest in cross-cultural understanding.

Through the partnerships established among participants and the implementing organizations, the program emphasizes sharing learning and putting into practice concrete initiatives which service and involve other community members in intercultural cooperation - to continually expand the circle of America and Middle Eastern citizen diplomats.

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS

Legacy International

Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue (FDCD)

International Center for Religion & Diplomacy (ICRD)

FUNDING

Funding sought for first program cycle: \$335,000

For more information please contact

Shanti R. Thompson | Vice President, Director of Training | Thompson@legacyintl.org

Impact Abroad

Raleigh, NC | www.impactabroad.com

GLOBAL CHALLENGE(S) THAT INITIATIVE ADDRESSES

Reducing Poverty & Disease; Creating a Globally Competent Society; Encouraging Cultural Understanding

Impact Abroad

Impact Abroad places Americans who want to volunteer in China into nonprofit organizations and volunteer projects. It is, in a sense, like a short-term Peace Corps. In addition to helping local projects at Kunming, in China's Yunnan province, we help our American volunteers develop an understanding of a new culture and society outside the US. All of our volunteer services, from placement to support before and during their trip, are provided completely free of charge.

We encourage cultural understanding among volunteers, as ours is a culture immersion program. We work towards a personal impact in the field of education and community development for children from economically challenged local communities and peer impact for disadvantaged migrant women. Through education we seek to broaden the horizons of homeless and poverty stricken children in the local community.

REDUCING POVERTY & DISEASE

We work in the local community in Kunming, China. A large population of migrant workers and over 25 minority groups form a significant part of this community. By providing volunteer teachers, we help provide the kind of informal education that disadvantaged children need to escape the poverty they are growing up in. Providing informal education is imperative because the Chinese residence permit system makes it extremely difficult (if not impossible) for homeless children and children of migrant workers to attend school. Our volunteers teach English. Having some English skills is one of the most important skills a person in China can have. It instantly makes someone more hireable and opens up new opportunities for him or her to escape from poverty. Introducing these kids to foreigners broadens their perspective and gets them curious about the world. In many ways this helps the children develop a more optimistic view of the world and their future in it.

CREATING A GLOBALLY COMPETENT SOCIETY

While Yunnan is a very beautiful province with diverse people and cultures, its industrial development has lagged far behind the coastal region of China. In truth, it is this lack of industry that has helped preserve Yunnan's traditional cultures. However, a less desirable consequence of this is that many families of migrant workers in Kunming have limited economic opportunities. This has left many children in a position where they don't have access to the kind of education necessary to escape the poverty in which they are growing up. Impact abroad's non-profit division seeks to broaden the horizon of these children by partnering with local NGOs. Our volunteers work with peasant organizations on rural development issues. We now have programs in the field of education, community development, children development, and peer impact for disadvantaged women. Primarily focusing on reaching out to underprivileged children, we seek to broaden the perspective of the people our volunteers help as well as the volunteers themselves. Carrying this mission, we do not charge any fee to place volunteers to Kunming NGOs. We feel that volunteering in a foreign country is a valuable experience for people of all ages and is something that has the power of "citizen diplomacy" to build understanding among the peoples of the world.

ENCOURAGING CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

Impact abroad has its own non-profit division that places international volunteers to work in local organizations that serves the local minority communities. As the provincial capital of Yunnan, Kunming has a presence of an overwhelming 25 minority groups of China's 56 recognized minority groups. These groups are rich in their own traditional culture but many segments of these minority groups have lagged behind in the overall economic boost that has affected the nation. We cater to individuals from families with limited economic and educational opportunities. Our international volunteers mostly from the US and the English speaking countries of parts of Europe volunteer directly with the local community. This provides them with a cultural immersion into the local Chinese community. For the volunteers this is as much a rewarding experience as with the groups touched with this community service. Volunteers garner a direct benefit in terms of learning more about a new culture, picking up the local language with native speakers and becoming more responsible global citizens. Working across a varied cross-section of the society, volunteers can teach homeless children at the Jia Xin Community Center, volunteer with women and children at Willow Community Center for Migrant Women and Children or take part in rural programs for Peasants at Lu-Geng Economic Cooperation Center.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

As a non-profit organization partnering with local organizations in Kunming, Yunnan, the project needs a steady funding to thrive. Once these volunteers are recruited there are a chain of costs behind placing each volunteer. We provide free placements for our volunteers, also free consulting to volunteers planning their trip abroad. The additional funding can help allay some of the costs of the support services we provide our volunteers. There is a wide range of these services; some of them may be summed here. In the initial phase before the volunteers arrive in China we help them from our experience towards a smoother VISA application procedure and help arranging cheaper flights to China. Once in Kunming we help with country orientation, airport pick-ups and housing arrangements. Through our knowledge of the local housing market and connections with real estate agents we help volunteers with several types of accommodation options. Apart from these operational costs involved in running the program, additional funding would help us recruit more volunteers to increase our footprint on the local community. There is a big need for English speaking volunteers who can teach basic English skills to educationally backward communities. Placing experienced volunteers from developed nations has a positive impact on community development training. A significant growth in the number of participating volunteers in the coming years will help us gain a deeper reach into these communities.

For more information please contact

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The New England School of English

Cambridge, MA | www.nese.com

GLOBAL CHALLENGE(S) THAT INITIATIVE ADDRESSES

Increasing Respect for Human Rights; Creating a Globally Competent Society; Encouraging Cultural Understanding

The New England School Of English Intensive Program

OBJECTIVES

- To meet students' needs to become competent in using the global language of English in a variety of settings.
- To positively influence students' perspectives of other cultures through sharing classes.
- To promote tolerance and cross-communication.

Participants in The New England School of English's Intensive Program study for 22.5 hours a week, 4.5 hours per day for sessions of 4-weeks. Students can stay for as little time as one 4-week session or as many as 10 4-week sessions, but most tend to study for 4-6 4-week sessions.

INCREASING RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Because our students share living and classroom space with peers from all over the world, NESE creates a setting in which students can no longer readily make assumptions about one another. By experiencing just how much we all have in common while working together to learn and communicate in English, students naturally gain more respect for other humans and their rights.

CREATING A GLOBALLY COMPETENT SOCIETY

NESE actively contributes to creating a globally competent society by making English more accessible for all who need to use it to communicate. NESE understands that far more important than making English-speakers better understood by non-English speakers, the fostering of English learning allows people from different language backgrounds to use a common language (English) to communicate.

ENCOURAGING CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

NESE actively trains teachers to model and foster cross-cultural respect both within the classroom and beyond it. Teachers serve as moderators for lively class discussions and debates that promote understanding of different cultures and that highlight what all of us, as members of the human family do share in common.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Additional funding would allow NESE to serve the needs of students from a greater variety of socioeconomic backgrounds, which would in turn add to the diversity of the student body.

For more information please contact

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Partners of the Americas

Washington, DC | www.partners.net

GLOBAL CHALLENGES THAT INITIATIVE ADDRESSES

Creating a Globally Competent Society; Encouraging Cultural Understanding

Supporting International Volunteering Efforts

Currently, there is little information available on the quality and breadth of follow-on programs with international volunteers. Anecdotal evidence shows that when volunteers are given opportunities to participate in structured activities after an international service experience, they can become powerful forces for citizen diplomacy. Volunteers within the Partners of the Americas network have continued to serve for decades following their first service exchange. It is through this sustained engagement that citizen diplomats can create the most lasting and positive impact, showcasing not only what makes America great, but demonstrating our long-term commitment to global social development.

Partners of the Americas (Partners) propose an innovative program that will work with organizations throughout the US to provide continued resources and mentoring to international volunteers and to support communities abroad in order to build long-term relationships between communities. Specifically, this program will:

- Support greater follow-on initiatives for US volunteers who have served abroad
- Support youth as emerging leaders for international volunteerism and citizen diplomacy
- Promote a culture of volunteerism in communities that work with US volunteers abroad

To accomplish these objectives, Partners proposes to work directly with US volunteer sending organizations (VSOs), international exchange organizations, receiving organizations abroad, and foreign volunteers and grassroots organizations. In addition, Partners will utilize its diverse volunteer network throughout the US and Latin America to support and facilitate program activities. Partners' chapters throughout the US and Latin America are fully prepared to support these initiatives.

For greatest impact, activities will be implemented simultaneously, supporting both new and experienced volunteer leaders with diverse backgrounds in the US, while also promoting volunteerism abroad. Partners proposes to pilot this initiative in Latin America, where there already exists a grassroots network capable of supporting this initiative. However, Partners is prepared to provide technical assistance and training to other organizations in order to build the capacity to replicate this program on a global scale.

OBJECTIVE 1: SUPPORT GREATER FOLLOW-ON INITIATIVES FOR US VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE SERVED ABROAD

- In order to continue engaging with international communities after their international service experiences, volunteers need access to resources and opportunities to develop sustainable projects and long-term relationships with their host communities. Through targeted support, volunteers will be able to make lifetime commitments to citizen diplomacy and engage their communities in activities with international partners. Structured follow-on includes active participation in community-based organizations that support citizen diplomacy, on-going opportunities to connect and exchange ideas and methodologies with volunteers, and financial resources to develop and implement bi-national service projects.

Building Local and Regional Networks: By linking diverse organizations throughout the US, Partners can help volunteers connect to organizations in their communities that meet their interests and needs, while maintaining a link with the organization(s) they served with. Partners will create a network of VSOs and local organizations that can implement comprehensive follow-on programs with returned volunteers in multiple communities throughout the US, allowing volunteers to easily continue serving as citizen diplomats over the long-term. Partners will provide technical assistance to organizations that feel they don't have the appropriate tools to engage their returned volunteers.

Volunteers also need learning opportunities to build new relationships across borders and sustain momentum by infusing new ideas and energy into projects. It is therefore equally important to link returned volunteers with regional and international networks of volunteers that share ideas, resources, and experiences in order to continuously grow the field. Partners will convene a series of in-person and online Peer Learning Workshops to strengthen regional networks and develop innovative strategies to address thematic areas such as international education, environmental protection, health, sustainable energy and the arts.

Small grants to support bi-national service projects: To remain engaged in citizen diplomacy, volunteers need to be actively engaged in bi-national projects that allow them to maintain relationships with international communities and give back to their home communities. Partners will provide 25 openly competed, closely monitored, small grants to pilot projects and to launch new initiatives, open to volunteers throughout the US who have served abroad or who are interested in connecting with international communities. Projects will require an international partner who jointly designs and implements the projects with a strong private source match requirement.

OBJECTIVE 2: SUPPORT YOUTH AS EMERGING LEADERS FOR INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERISM AND CITIZEN DIPLOMACY

- Youth need mentors and resources to become more engaged in international volunteerism and to learn how to better promote global awareness among their peers. Partners will link youth who have served abroad, or are interested in serving abroad, with experienced mentors who can guide them as they develop their own projects, create new opportunities, and reach out to their peers. Partners will recruit and train mentors from within the Partners network and other VSOs and link them with youth who demonstrate leadership capabilities and a passion for citizen diplomacy. Youth will become fully integrated into the larger volunteer network, including participation in regional and international events and access to small grants.

OBJECTIVE 3: PROMOTE A CULTURE OF VOLUNTEERISM IN COMMUNITIES THAT WORK WITH US CITIZEN DIPLOMATS

- To be more effectively engaged, US citizens need to be connected to communities that are equally receptive to working with US citizens on bi-national projects and initiatives. However, the culture of volunteerism is not as widespread in other countries as found in the US, nor do all governments promote service as the US government does. Therefore, Partners will convene and organize citizens and policymakers to help governments understand the importance of citizen engagement in development; monitor policies and laws pertaining to volunteerism abroad in order to promote the most supportive environments for volunteers; and train organizations and communities to effectively engage volunteers.

Partners will facilitate workshops to train volunteers, volunteer managers, organizations, and corporations in volunteerism as a way of life and to promote volunteerism among individuals and organizations. Trained leaders will then be responsible for disseminating information and facilitating other workshops within their communities. To support these initiatives, Partners requests initial funding of \$750,000 to launch activities and fund activities over one year. Partners network of volunteers and collaborating organizations will provide \$400,000 in counterpart funds. Additionally, Partners will leverage existing resources from programs and events to utilize funds cost effectively.

By focusing on providing comprehensive follow-on, supporting emerging youth leaders, and promoting volunteerism abroad, Partners will create an environment for US citizens who volunteer abroad to remain engaged in international citizen diplomacy over a lifetime. The program will increase the impact of citizen diplomats by allowing them to continue their engagement with international communities in the medium- to- long-term. In addition, the program will also expand the number of US citizens involved in citizen diplomacy by connecting more communities with international counterparts and supporting youth volunteer leaders to promote citizen diplomacy among their peers.

For more information please contact

Matt Clausen | Vice President for Partnerships and Programs | mclausen@partners.net

Service World

Waban, MA | www.omnimed.org

GLOBAL CHALLENGE(S) THAT INITIATIVE ADDRESSES

Reducing Poverty and Disease; Creating a Globally Competent Society;
Encouraging Cultural Understanding

The Global Health Service Corps

Proposal

To launch a Global Health Service Corps (GHSC) that will facilitate a dramatic increase in both health and non-health providers alike serving in the health sectors of developing countries, making measurable improvements. This revenue neutral program offers three new entities, detailed below, as modified from the Institute of Medicine's 2005 *Healer's Abroad*.

Implementation

Under current economic conditions, a revenue neutral plan offers the best chance for passage. Our proposed annual GHSC cost of \$65 million represents just 0.66% of the annual \$9.6 billion PEPFAR budget. The President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) is another possible source for at least part of the GHSC, with expected funding levels of \$500 million in FY 2010. The USAID budget could also support some of GHSC's functions. We recommend that an amendment be introduced to reallocate \$65 million from existing revenue streams, mainly PEPFAR, to create this Global Health Service Corps. It would be established within USAID and all of the following coordinated within an Office of the Global Health Service Corps. Support for short-term (up to six months) volunteers would come through VfPServ and Global Service Fellowships. The GHSC would be comprised of three entities:

- **Center for Global Health Service** Any federal push should take advantage of the technological breakthroughs that make service more accessible, effective, and connected. Given President Obama's recent call for developing countries to have more control over PEPFAR resource allocation, this Center would become a prime vehicle for "matching" specific requests from developing countries to specific programs, skill sets, or twinning partners, and then tracking the progress. This "Center," containing an administrative structure and virtual elements, will contain the following: a database of health service opportunities; a coordinating service that links developing country requests to volunteers and services within the GHSC; a "matching" service for volunteers to find both opportunities and mentors; a site that "maps" specific NGOs by location and specialty area worldwide; a hub of websites, core curricula, training materials, and "effective practices" on health service; and an administrative architecture to maintain it all. Prototypes of many components of this Center exist already and inputs from developing countries would be coordinated through existing mechanisms at USAID and US Embassies. This Center is best developed by collective action, and an RFP could go out for \$500,000 that would favor multiple organizations collaborating to build upon that which already exists. Running this Center would cost \$500,000 in year one and \$1.25 million in years three and beyond. The Center would coordinate two additional key pieces, a Loan Repayment Program and a Research and Efficacy Center.

Loan Repayment Program For most health professionals, the major barrier to global service is the substantial higher educational debts, which averaged \$139,517 in 2007. Similar concerns limit service of non-health providers as well. The GHSC would offer higher educational debt repayment for anyone serving abroad for a minimum of one year through any GHSC or other qualifying program as follows: Physicians: \$25,000/year served; allied health providers: \$15,000/year served; and those lacking graduate degrees \$10,000/year served. This loan forgiveness is hardly robust, but many qualifying for loan repayment will be eligible for funding in other programs within GHSC and Service World. Cost of the program would increase from a maximum of \$2.5 million in year one (100 awards X \$25,000) to a maximum of \$12.5 million in year three and beyond (500 awards X \$25,000).

- **Research and Efficacy Program** This program will monitor the progress and impact of the programs within GHSC, evaluate the impact of funding streams, and provide grant support to research efforts that seek to answer the critical question, “What is the impact of volunteers’ work?” This piece will support the quest for hard data, featuring prospective trials that measure outcomes on health indices. A federal push could catalyze much needed change in the sector. Part of the budget would cover internal expenses to measure funding and program efficacy; NIH would award the rest through grant making coordinated internally at USAID or. The Program would require \$500,000 per year to run and would award research grants of \$2,500,000 in year one, increasing to \$5 million per year in year three and beyond.
- **A Needs-Based Global Health Service Corps** Short-term health and non-health providers have long made a difference abroad. However, for those required to do the “heavy lifting” of development, longer-term commitments are required, often by those in mid-careers with loan and family constraints who require more support. Full salary is not possible in a service program, but a moderate stipend and possibility of loan forgiveness is appropriate. Recruits would serve from 1-2 years in a Peace Corps like model in which foreign Ministers of Health request US volunteers with specific skills through the Center for Global Health Service. These volunteers would receive a modest annual stipend prorated for their skill level, with physicians receiving \$45,000 per year, nurses water & sanitation specialists, and other allied health providers \$25,000 per year, and non-health providers \$12,500 per year. Indirect costs would roughly double the costs for each person serving through this program. Those with outstanding loans would be eligible for the Loan Repayment Program. Costs to send 100 providers (60 physicians, 30 nurses/ allied health providers, 10 non-health) in the first year would be \$ 7.1 million, rising to \$35.7 million in year three and thereafter for 500 providers (300 physicians, 150 allied health providers, and 50 non-health).
- **Twinning Program** In recent years there has been an increase in twinning programs between rich and poor countries that strengthen local capacity and reduce health care worker emigration (brain drain). Many medical schools have active programs in which US faculty train indigenous medical personnel abroad along with US students and residents. An eight-school initiative (4 US, 4 E. African) is currently training future African health leaders. Relationships between universities, NGOs, hospitals, and other public-private hybrids between rich and poor countries have made significant inroads in training HCWs and meeting other health needs in developing countries. Average support would be \$500,000 per twinning initiative, with five initiatives in year one increasing to 20 initiatives in years three and beyond. Costs would be \$2,500,000 for year one, rising to \$10,000,000 per year for years three and beyond.

OUTCOMES

We suggest an amendment to current PEPFAR legislation to reallocate existing funds to initiate this Global Health Service Corps. We believe that this revenue neutral approach will provide a politically acceptable means to galvanize American global health service via the GHSC, a concept long advocated by many.

FOR	COST: YEAR 1	COST YEAR 3 & BEYOND
■ Center for Global Health Service	\$500,000	\$1,250,000
Research & Efficacy	\$3,000,000	\$5,500,000
Loan Repayment	\$2,500,000	\$12,500,000
■ Global Health Service Corps:	\$7,150,000	\$35,750,000
■ Twinning Program	\$2,500,000	\$10,000,000
TOTAL COSTS	\$15,650,000	\$65,000,000

For more information please contact

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WorldTeach

Cambridge, MA | www.worldteach.org

GLOBAL CHALLENGES THAT INITIATIVE ADDRESSES

Creating a Globally Competent Society; Encouraging Cultural Understanding

Worldteach Placements

OBJECTIVES

- Give volunteers the opportunity to make a meaningful and lasting impact in their country of service, meeting locally identified educational needs.
- Provide a full cultural immersion experience for volunteers that allow them to experience all aspects of life in their placement community and gain a new understanding of the challenges of development.
- Successfully meet our partners' (primarily national and local governments) stated need for committed, passionate fluent English-speaking teachers.

WorldTeach's yearlong volunteers are contracted to teach for a full school year, and each of our programs includes a month-long in-country orientation with language, cross-cultural and teacher training. Our summer-long volunteers teach for two months with a shorter orientation period in country.

CREATING A GLOBALLY COMPETENT SOCIETY

WorldTeach volunteers return from their year of service with a deep understanding of the challenges presented by global development, as well as a strong sense of responsibility toward their communities of service and a realization of the many privileges that they have been granted. Because WorldTeach volunteers work within a local system (usually within a national or provincial public school system), they grow to recognize and respect the challenges that their local, native counterparts face in their lives and in their work. WorldTeach alumni remain connected to their countries of service and remain engaged in global and development issues long after they return from their experiences. As our volunteers often fundraise among their friends and family prior to their departure, their hometowns and communities also become a part of their experiences, often following their progress and travails through blogs and newsletters and at times contributing funds to projects that volunteers conceive and implement once they identify needs on-site.

The majority of our partners invites WorldTeach volunteers and contributes toward their cost as volunteers because of a need for trained English teachers to prepare their students for an increasingly globalized society. In turn, our volunteers return from their placements with strong language skills that will prove useful to them throughout their careers.

ENCOURAGING CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

WorldTeach programs, both the volunteers who participate in our programs as well as the students and community members they work with, promote cultural understanding. For our volunteers, who spend their service living either with a host family or in teacher housing together with local teachers, the WorldTeach experience is a crash course to a new personal, familial and professional culture. Through a full year of service, volunteers experience the true highs and lows of cultural integration that lead to a deeper understanding of entrenched differences and similarities. Professional challenges in the classroom of absentee teachers or truant students appear at turns infuriating, humorous, heartbreaking, an opportunity for positive change or an insurmountable obstacle. By working through these challenges, volunteers begin to learn what is and is not possible, and the limits and boundaries presented by cultural norms and tradition.

Meanwhile, for many students, a WorldTeach volunteer may be the first American and the first foreigner that they have encountered. They and our volunteers' host families and communities are able to meet, speak, and live with an American that may in turn dispel or confirm what they have seen in the media. They experience through the volunteers' habits, stories, blunders and comportment how a foreign culture may be different from or similar to their own.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING NEEDS

One of WorldTeach's greatest constraints is the fact that the cost of our programs is prohibitive to many prospective applicants and volunteers as well as to potential partner countries. Currently, WorldTeach's program costs are split between our in-country partners and our volunteers themselves. Some of our programs are fully funded (e.g. our American Samoa program) due to our partner governments' ability to cover the full cost of our volunteers' experience (airfare, health insurance, housing, meals, etc.) through designated funds. However, in the countries where we serve that often tend to have the greatest need, the amount that they are able to contribute is minimal, and so must be borne in full by the volunteer.

With sufficient funds, WorldTeach would be able to:

- Extend meaningful volunteer opportunities to a larger and more diverse demographic of Americans, and
- Provide WorldTeach volunteers to countries that are unable to contribute significantly toward the cost of hosting a volunteer teacher. WorldTeach takes pride in the fact that our programs are true partnerships between the organization and the countries where we serve, providing a model of accountability; however, we regret that we are unable to open programs in countries that might most benefit from our programs.

For more information please contact

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