

EXPERIENCE MISSION

“EM exists to spread Christ's love by connecting people together from diverse cultures and backgrounds, developing leaders, and assisting those that live in under-developed communities with resources and support to enable them to reach their own communities and actively participate in extending out to the world.”

OUR MISSION

WE DESIRE TO BE PEOPLE OF HOPE IN THIS WORLD. We believe hope begins through authentic relationships with others, and that through these relationships communities are inspired to see things differently and live into a new reality. At Experience Mission, we seek to partner with developing communities, build relationships and then provide resources to initiate sustainable change.

In essence, Experience Mission is a network of people united in a cause. We are a co-op of communities and leaders committed to supporting one another as we work towards healthy and sustainable growth.

At EM, our work is not limited to an individual community's vision. The co-op model encourages the circulation of ideas, innovative use of resources, and spiritual encouragement across communities that help EM partners participate in a movement that is larger than themselves. Volunteers find that every hour worked and each dollar spent allows EM to build relationships with new communities; by participating in the network, each community partner is empowered to pay forward the opportunities they receive.

Together, as community leaders, interns, volunteers, donors, and full-time staff, we stand as a network of people committed to providing hope that things can change for the better.

At Experience Mission, our Christian perspective drives our work. We believe God has promised to renew all of creation and has been working toward this goal throughout history. This promise of restoration inspires our work in the world. We seek to follow the powerful example of Jesus by caring for those in need and offering them the hope that things can be different. We take the importance of people's dignity seriously and aspire to work in a way that fosters healthy relationships based on mutual trust and respect.



OUR WORK CAN BE DEFINED
BY THREE PRIMARY FOCUSES:
EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES,
DEVELOPING LEADERS, &
MOBILIZING VOLUNTEERS
TO PROVIDE AID AND SUPPORT.

These focuses fit intricately together and form the foundation of EM's larger overall mission. We invite you to explore the work we've done in each of these focus areas and discover the ways you can participate.



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

WHEN SUSTAINABLE CHANGE OCCURS
IN A COMMUNITY, IT MOST OFTEN
BEGINS FROM WITHIN.

Sustainable change succeeds when there is a sober awareness of the local struggles and a homegrown vision for the future—when the community recognizes the barriers standing in their way and takes ownership of their efforts to tackle problems like homelessness, hunger, or eroding families.

We believe that if our work is to have an impact it too must begin from within. Instead of stepping in with preconceived ambitions or goals, we feel that true partnership begins by listening to the community, hearing their stories, feeling their pain and responding to their vision for the future. Often times, all that communities lack are access to the appropriate resources and the opportunity for development. At EM, we desire to meet these needs, yet we know that sustainable development requires more than simply providing resources.

WE BELIEVE THAT HEALTHY
RELATIONSHIPS ARE THE BUILDING
BLOCKS FOR CHANGE. IT'S
THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS THAT
HOPE IS FOSTERED AND PEOPLE ARE
ENCOURAGED TO DREAM OF
SOMETHING BETTER.

Listening to real people tell their stories and helping them wrestle with what needs to change are simple but meaningful parts of a process that produces a collective vision that comes from within the community. Through this partnership we are able to support the community with the appropriate resources needed for healthy development.



EDUCATION & MICROLOAN INITIATIVES

What if we had the opportunity to not just give a handout to someone in need, but rather an opportunity for that person to help themselves? Many people in the U.S. come by these opportunities naturally; a good education, a job with a reasonable wage, skills to provide for our families. But these are not universal. Those in positions of poverty rarely have the means to get a good education and start making a life for themselves. Even those with practical skills and great ideas can lack the resources to change their circumstances.

In 2013, Experience Mission launched two new initiatives to address these issues. Our Education Initiative provides scholarships to send teenagers and young adults back to school to learn skills to become contributing members of their communities. Our Microloan Initiative provides financial backing for people with skills, a vision, and innovative ideas to start their own small businesses. Once paid back, these loans help fund the program and become new opportunities for even more people.



100% of donations for individual scholarships and microloans go directly to the communities involved.

LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP:

www.experienmission.org/DONATE





DEVELOPING LEADERS

AT THE HEART OF EVERY MAJOR CHANGE IS A FIGURE OR GROUP WHO REFINES A VISION AND INSPIRES A COMMUNITY.

This voice of inspiration lays the path for how others will respond and follow. Leaders hold immense power because they foster the culture and environment for change, determining how people will work and interact with one another.

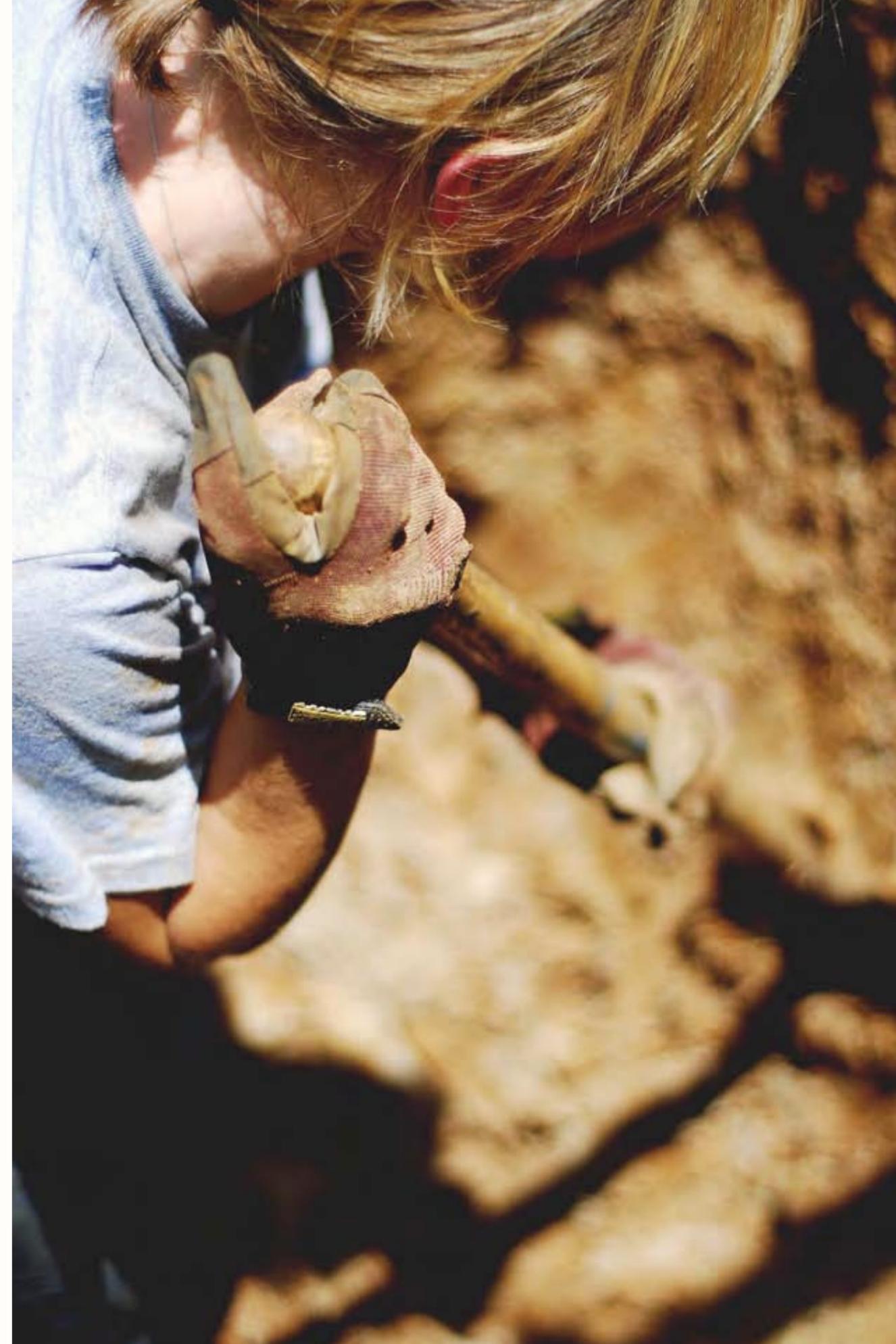
In many ways leaders are the catalyst for change. If we want to implement sustainable growth, we must invest in leaders for the future—leaders in both developed and underdeveloped communities. We believe that this takes place by developing external talents and skills as well as the internal frameworks with which individuals see and respond to the world.

HUMAN WORTH

Healthy leadership develops out of a care for people and a desire to see mutual improvement and growth. The more that leaders recognize the value of human life, the better they are at developing a holistic vision for the future. We believe this respect for life develops through interaction and relationships with diverse people, which broadens our perspective and changes how we see the world around us. Out of these relationships the vision for the future is born.

RESPONSIBILITY

In order for vision to be implemented, leaders must have the appropriate skills to set change in motion. They must be trustworthy and competent, able to work with different people and make difficult decisions. Often times these skills don't develop easily. They take time and opportunity. Leaders are not born, but are shaped and developed by the experiences they have throughout their life. At Experience Mission we believe that one of the most powerful ways to empower and equip young leaders is to offer them great responsibility and the freedom to experiment, allowing them to grow and mature.





INTERNSHIPS

MO SCARPELLI'S STORY

As a budding journalist, Mo had always made it a priority to stay up to date on global and humanitarian issues. But when she interned with Experience Mission during college, those facts and statistics started to transform into faces and stories.

Throughout her prior experiences Mo had developed a passion for storytelling, but as a photojournalism intern she was able to use her gifts in a way that made a real impact on the lives of others. Each week, Mo traveled to one of EM's communities, interviewing the local people and taking photos of the ongoing work. Even though she was young, Mo gained confidence as she traveled independently and posted her work on EM's news site. Whether she was interviewing a woman about improved sanitation in rural Jamaica or talking with a teenage boy about avoiding gang violence in Atlanta, Mo was able to see that her work mattered.

After interning with Experience Mission, Mo accepted a position as Multimedia Producer at charity: water, an organization committed to bringing clean water to under-developed countries. Since then, she has moved on to other professional and creative opportunities around the world. As she looks back, she knows that her internship not only influenced her career path, but also shaped her into a woman who is compelled to be the voice of those living on the margins of society.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM:

www.experiencemission.org/INTERNSHIP

IMMERSION

What happens when you leave everything that is comfortable and fully embrace a culture unlike your own? Our Immersion program is designed for individuals who want to better understand their faith and mission in the world. Each year, we invite young adults (ages 18-30) to begin asking questions as they spend three to six months in unique cultures.

During the Immersion program, team members are challenged to see the world in a different way and learn how to initiate healthy development in underprivileged communities. They have the valuable opportunity to live alongside and soak up the wisdom found in these cultures, re-examining and deepening their personal faith. Throughout the trip, teams also tackle real social, physical and spiritual needs as they provide tangible service to the communities they visit. We believe that Immersion is a challenging yet powerful way to develop leaders for the future and yet another way we can build mutually beneficial relationships.

LEARN MORE ABOUT IMMERSION:
www.experiencemission.org/IMMERSION



IMMERSION

2015

6M AFRICA

6M CARIBBEAN

3M COSTA RICA

3M NAMIBIA

3M SOUTH AFRICA

1M NAMIBIA



MOBILIZING VOLUNTEERS

MISSION TRIPS ARE ABOUT INVITING PEOPLE TO COME AND ENCOUNTER THE CHANGE ALREADY TAKING PLACE WITHIN DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES.

Volunteer Mobilization is about bringing people together to experience unity in diversity. It's about learning, growing and developing leaders for tomorrow. Volunteer mobilization propels people to broaden their views of the world and learn how to be agents of change within their own communities when they return home. During these trips, a number of important things can happen:

RELATIONSHIPS

Relationships are the driving force for development. They are what initiate hope and inspire vision. Healthy relationships create mutual trust and respect, which in turn allow people to work together more effectively. At Experience Mission, we believe that great things happen when you bring people together from diverse cultures and backgrounds. People learn from one another, inspire change in each other, and offer hope through encouragement.

REALIZATIONS

When we journey outside of our comfort zone, we start to see things differently. We're exposed to the drastically different lifestyles found throughout the world, thus changing how we see it. Immersing ourselves in diverse communities allows us to experience the fortitude of the local people and their vision for change. We see community development lived out in real, tangible situations. If we allow them to, these experiences have the power to change us, challenging the way we think about God, others and our mission in the world. And when we return home, we are able to begin living out this mission within our own communities.

RESOURCES

With such a large gap between the rich and the poor, volunteers have the opportunity to mobilize resources for the community's vision. By traveling to the communities, volunteers invest their time, skills and wealth into the local vision. Suddenly, there's money for development, manpower for work projects, and expertise for education. When resources are given away carelessly they often can cause strife, jealousy and broken relationships. However, by carefully and intentionally pouring out these resources, the community is given the opportunity to put their vision into action and enact real change.



PARTNER COMMUNITIES

PORTLAND,
MAINE



ATLANTA,
GEORGIA



APPALACHIA,
WEST VIRGINIA



HARLEM,
NEW YORK CITY



JOPLIN,
MISSOURI



NAVAJO NATION,
AZ & NM



WASHINGTON,
D.C.



PETIT GOAVE,
HAITI



CATADUPA,
JAMAICA



TALAMANCA,
COSTA RICA



BELMOPAN,
BELIZE



HAMMANSKRAAL,
SOUTH AFRICA



MOORE,
OKLAHOMA



COMMUNITIES
IN CUBA



LEARN MORE ABOUT MISSION TRIPS:
www.experienmission.org/MISSIONTRIPS



LEARN MORE

WWW.EXPERIENCEMISSION.ORG
1-888-475-6414

RESOURCES

We've developed cross-cultural training resources that are available for free on our website. One newly-developed resource training session is on the topic of Human Dignity:

"When does serving become self-serving? Are there times when we accidentally rob the poor of their dignity in our excitement to do good? How do you love someone without making them a 'project?' This free, interactive session is designed to be a game-changing discussion for anyone who wants to challenge the traditional mission's model or volunteerism."

DOWNLOAD IT FOR FREE:

www.experiemission.org/RESOURCEHOME

MORE ABOUT EM

Core Values:

www.experiemission.org/COREVALUES

Statement of Faith:

www.experiemission.org/FAITHSTATEMENT

Model for Mutual Influence:

www.experiemission.org/INFLUENCE

Model for Sustainable Development:

www.experiemission.org/SUSCHANGE

FOLLOW EM ONLINE

