

Spring 2017 Volunteer Service Awardees

The Spring 2017 Volunteer Service Award grants were awarded to 11 individuals who will be spending between 8 weeks to more than a year volunteering. We congratulate the awardees and look forward to hearing about their accomplishments as well as lessons learned while working in the developing world.

Elizabeth Guerrero with **Amigos De Las Americas** in Leon, Nicaragua (Aug to Dec 2017)



“I will be working alongside the organization, Las Tías, which serves vulnerable children and teenagers in the city of León, Nicaragua by providing academic support, vocational training, and nutrition programs at their community center. Las Tías has served 850 adolescents and 1,060 children... Las Tías also offers vocational training to adolescents and individuals living in underserved, rural areas, which are predominantly single mothers with very little formal education. My daily responsibilities will consist of engaging students in informational health lectures and coordinating exercise and athletic activities. I will be there to support the staff and to learn from them..”

Ifeoma Ifediba, a member of the **GlobeMed** chapter at Washington University in St. Louis, will be volunteering in Iganga, Uganda from May to July 2017.

Washington University’s GlobeMed chapter partners with Uganda Development and Health Associates (UDHA), a public health non-profit based in Iganga, Uganda which operates projects addressing public health issues including HIV/AIDS, multi-drug resistant tuberculosis, and delivery of nutritional supplements. The chapter works with UDHA to fund and manage two projects, a Youth Resource Center in Iganga, Uganda that focuses on sexual and reproductive health education, as well as a clinic and nutrition project focusing on maternal and child health in the nearby village of Naigobya. Ifeoma will be in Uganda this summer as an intern at UDHA. During a nine-week internship, she and others on the GlobeMed team will monitor and evaluate the potential capacity of their projects on the ground. They will be designing and carrying out surveys to determine the efficacy of their programs and to establish a baseline for the future. This information will inform their partnership in making strategic decisions for the future of the partnership.



Victoria Kuztos with the **GlobeMed** chapter of Tufts University will be volunteering this summer in Nepal. Victoria will be part of a team working with GlobeMed’s partner in Nepal. PHASE (Practical Help Achieving Self- Empowerment) is an NGO which operates in the rural,



mountainous regions of Nepal to provide quality healthcare, education, and livelihood support to local, and often disenfranchised communities. One of the projects is an extension of PHASE's focus on preventative health care – implementing routine health checks at local secondary schools. The vision, hearing, and physical exams conducted, would simultaneously allow the organization to monitor the health of the community (especially children) and provide PHASE a mechanism for assessing its own long-term impact. The data from the health checks quantitatively measures the progress of established projects, provide guidelines for further research, and enables follow up on the health checks which were initiated in 2016.



Carol Pengshung, Andrew Hoy, Heather Smillie, and Rachel Kanen are volunteers with **Manna Project International** in communities near Managua, Nicaragua

Carol and Andrew will begin volunteering in summer 2017, while Heather and Rachel have already spent months in Nicaragua as part of their 8 to 13 month commitments as Program Directors. Responsibilities include: Developing and running community programs, Managing organizational operations (grant writing, record keeping, recruitment, etc.), Raising awareness of international issues in the US, Hosting short-term volunteers and training incoming Program Directors, Building relationships with local organizations and community members. Individual program directors work with the local clinic, teach classes in English, vocational training, and sponsor children's sports and other activities.



Anne Borgeson and Michael Marchese will spend the second half of 2017 and summer of 2017, respectively, volunteering with **Manna Project International** in Chillos Valley, Ecuador

In Ecuador, Manna works to break the cycles of poverty by focusing on health, education and livelihood initiatives through a holistic approach to development. Rather than focusing on one aspect of poverty, Manna recognizes that poverty is multi-faceted and thus works to develop the community as a whole. As Program Directors, Anne and Michael will work on programs ranging from Adult & Children's English classes, to the creation of a library & community center, to Health & Wellness classes, to Small Business Development & Education Global Access Programs (E-GAP). These programs, among others, work to improve the overall quality of life of these citizens living in poverty that may be malnourished, uneducated, underemployed, and facing many other challenges that poverty brings.

Sarah Hartman is beginning her 2nd year as a volunteer with **Partners In Health** in Chiapas, Mexico

Compañeros En Salud (CES) in Mexico is a sister organization of Partners In Health, a global health organization working towards health as a human right in twelve countries. In Chiapas,



CES runs 10 remote rural clinics and one hospital in the Sierra Madre region of the state. To care for patients with depression, CES provides psychosocial support and medications in the clinic, in-home visits where community health workers employ psychoeducation tools to educate patients and their families, and a support group to provide patients with tools to confront depression. Sarah's main work currently consists of evaluating this group in order to understand which components are working and which need to be improved. Every week

she travels to a different community to interview patients, observe support groups, and shadow community health. She is also involved in other aspects of the work such as training or updating medical records.

Gianna Biaggi will be spending the summer in Nairobi, Kenya working with **Wale Wale**



The Wale Wale Community Literacy Project will allow youth in the Kibera slums of Nairobi, Kenya access to a fully functional library, a physical space for homework and academic activities, and books available for checkout. This library will include comprehensive youth services, including small-group literacy tutoring, after school homework help, opportunities for mentorship and scholarship counseling, and employment for community members. Through access to a library, youth in Kibera will be able to improve their

reading skills while simultaneously developing their futures. Gianna will be part of a team spending the summer getting the library ready for the beginning of the school year in September.