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Ubuntu Exposure Southern Africa Exchange Program Brochure

Service-Learning. Leadership Development. Community Service.

Vision

To expose students, faculty and various professionals to opportunities to make a contribution towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Africa.

Mission

- To connect students, faculty, professionals to community service projects and service-learning sites in Southern Africa
- To provide opportunities for youth leadership development and exposure
- To provide capacity building and various resources for non-profit organizations and those in need
- To promote cross-cultural understanding and expose the world to the beauty of Southern Africa.

Rationale

There is a tremendous need for international volunteers in Southern Africa. The United Nations has called upon the global community to take action and contribute to:

- ✓ developing a global partnership for development
- ✓ poverty eradication
- ✓ combating HIV/AIDS malaria and other diseases
- ✓ ensuring environmental sustainability
- ✓ universal primary education
- ✓ promoting gender equality and empower women
- ✓ reduction of child mortality
- ✓ improving maternal health

According to United Nations Millennium Development Goals Report (2005);

- Over half a million people are infected and living with HIV/AIDS in South Africa and the estimated adult HIV prevalence rate (aged 15-49) is 18.85%.
- Life Expectancy for countries such as Botswana, Zambia, Swaziland are as low as 35 years. Without AIDS, it is estimated that it would be 64 years. This means over half of 15 year olds living today are not expected to reach the age of 60.
- Approximately up to 6,000 young people are infected with HIV daily in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Due to HIV/AIDS, 12 million children have been orphaned by AIDS since 2001. Many of these households are led by children as young as 12 years old.
- 113 million children do not attend school worldwide. Sub-Saharan Africa currently accounts for 43 million of the 113 million. This number is expected to increase as more parents die from HIV.
- Hospitals are struggling to cope with the number of HIV-related patients. Schools have fewer teachers because of the AIDS epidemic. In 2005 it was estimated that 21% of teachers in South Africa were living with HIV.
- Unemployment rates in South Africa are as high as 39% and mostly affected are the youth.
- In Africa, water scarcity afflicts 300 million people and claims at least 6,000 lives a year.
- An estimated 34% of the surface area of Africa is under the threat of desertification.

The United Nations has set the target of achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. According to their predictions, if no radical steps and interventions are made soon, Africa will not meet its MDG targets until 2145-Which may be too late for many smaller countries.

Projects/Opportunities to make a difference

The Ubuntu Exposure South Africa program provides opportunities for all to make a difference and contributions towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Here are some examples of activities that students and volunteers can participate in;

- Providing nurturing care and much needed loving attention to infants, orphans and youth affected by HIV/AIDS
- Building the capacity of organizations working on HIV/AIDS home-based care, prevention efforts, youth education initiatives or awareness campaigns, or even building new orphanages.

- Establishing sustainable food sources for impoverished neighborhoods through identification of appropriate & sustainable crops, as well as participation in creating fresh vegetable gardens within local community centers
- Research in policy regarding the legal and socio-cultural factors that are affecting the spread of HIV/AIDS, as well as how solutions can be found and implemented nationally
- Working with women on empowerment projects for young girls. One of the factors that has caused the spread of HIV/AIDS has been the lack of choices and empowerment for women and young girls who are often caught in prostitution and the cycle of poverty
- Working on poverty eradication initiatives, esp. in rural areas
- Education (esp. maths, sciences and English)
- Entrepreneurship support to small businesses trying to get out of the poverty trap
- Working on agricultural economics projects, esp. in rural areas.
- Working on water purification and other environmental sustainability projects
- Working on urban design /architectural initiatives for development
- Work in the legal and human rights sector supporting various initiatives for women / gender empowerment and governance
- Help produce educational materials for training and youth leadership development
- Help underprivileged entrepreneurial organizations with business planning, marketing and fundraising
- Developing video documentaries and print marketing materials for charity organizations that need to communicate their work. Journalism students can also help with writing e.g. proposals and updating website content
- Information technology students and volunteers can help with information management, database management and various IT solutions for charity organizations
- Veterinary Medicine students can gain experience with animal care within the safari game park setting
- Health Sciences students and volunteers can gain experience working with hospitals, home based care initiatives, AIDS outreach programs and research facilities within areas affected by HIV/AIDS
- Arts, Culture, Anthropology students and volunteers can work in museums musical/theatrical performance centers, fine art galleries and anthropological research sites

Thematic Areas that we cover:

Community Health	Environmental Sustainability	Non-Profit Training	Poverty Eradication
Organizational Development	Women Empowerment	Aids Orphanage Volunteer	Entrepreneurship Development
Leadership, Teamwork Development	Architecture and Urban Design	Education and Research	Language Development
Legal and Human Rights Development	Building Youth Development	Agricultural Economics	Engineering
Information Systems and Technology	Anthropology and Earth Sciences	Communications and Journalism	Sports Development
Veterinary Medicine	Health Sciences	Arts and Culture	Hospitality and Tourism

Models of Participation

There are various ways in which students, faculty, volunteers, or those interested in internships can participate.

1 .**Service-Learning**- Service-learning follows a model in which students are engaged in activities that serve the larger community and which also allow them to put their classroom learning into practice. Robert Bringle describes it accurately when he states, *“Unlike many other community service programs (e.g. work-study, volunteering, community outreach), service-learning represents academic work in which in which the community service activities are used as a “text” that is interpreted, analyzed, and related to the content of a course in a way that permits a formal evaluation of academic learning. Thus in service-learning, academic credit is not given for engaging in community service ;rather academic credit is based on the academic learning that occurs as a result of the community service.”* (Education as Change;Volume 11 December 2007, Robert Bringle, Julia Hatcher; Civic Engagement and Service-learning-Implications for Higher Education in America and South Africa).

Defining service-learning is important as there is generally some confusion, and in some cases, lack of complete understanding of what service-learning (note the dash between service and learning) really is.

Opportunities for Students

- Ubuntu will research, identify a site and facilitate your entire service-learning experience in Southern Africa
- Ubuntu will provide a qualified person to handle all student assessment for credit
- Ubuntu will work with local universities e.g. Wits University or University of Johannesburg to facilitate coursework requirements (where necessary)
- Ubuntu will work on assisting you with developing an itinerary for your visit and also help your department or faculty, where necessary, to design specific activities in your itinerary that will count towards course credit
- Ubuntu will offer great flexibility in how individual experiences are organized. Every student is different and we cater to the unique students needs in all circumstances. For example, Ubuntu “standard package” consists of a 2 week experience associated with one or more organizations we work with, but we can also tailor the experiences for any length of time, in various areas (sites) and level (government, non-profit or grassroots).

Opportunities for Faculty

- To develop co-proposals with Ubuntu Exposure for funding Service-learning and international community service trips to Southern Africa
- To further their research and increase their publication outputs through various research opportunities in Southern Africa
- To make their curriculum and course offerings more competitive by offering international service-learning trips to South Africa for short periods in the semester
- To work with a partner, Ubuntu Exposure, to design specific activities in the student itinerary that can count towards credit. Ubuntu will provide a qualified person to handle all student assessment for credit (assessment instruments will be developed by the university/faculty) and Ubuntu representative will provide feedback about students’ performance at the end of the program
- Ubuntu will offer great flexibility in how faculty would like to implement the service-learning experience for students.

Opportunities for the University

Why should a University support Service-learning opportunities in South Africa?

- To implement the university’s “globalization policy”
- To make the university and its programs competitive

- To have “university ambassadors” abroad, in communities that otherwise could not be reached through sophisticated information technology. e.g. rural areas.

After a recent scouting trip to South Africa and Swaziland, a Purdue University faculty wrote;

“A tremendous benefit for Purdue students involved in a South Africa or Swaziland experience through Ubuntu would be the globalization of their experiences and their learning. It is possible that many of the same activities listed above could be carried out with NGO’s located within the United States, and even within our own local community, since need exists here at home as well. However, the opportunity to be fully immersed in a culture that is distinctly different from our own would help to expand our students’ views of the importance and applicability of their various fields of study. While South Africa and Swaziland do have English as one of the major languages – which would simplify travel – there are also local languages spoken and distinct cultural differences that would mean students’ experiences would be enriched beyond what they could experience in the U.S. alone. In addition, the challenges faced by NGO’s in these countries are different than those one would find in the U.S. However, because it is true that great need also exists domestically, and of similar types, it is recommended that any students engaging in SL(service-learning) or SRCS (Student-Resourced Community Service) through these new Ubuntu Institute organized activities be required to research and discuss applications of their findings here at home as part of a final report on their activities.”

Dr Gabriela C. Weaver, Associate Professor of Chemistry and of Curriculum and Instruction and Director, Center for Authentic Science Practice in Education, Purdue University, Indiana, Department of Chemistry

Program 2: Community Development and Service;

Community Service opportunities are abundant for students in Southern Africa. Many NGOs and community development organizations need help to develop.

Unfortunately, community service projects are not for credit bearing purposes (not unless prior engagement has been made). Community service opportunities differ to service-learning projects in that they offer opportunities to individuals to donate their time freely with no expectation of return (in money or credit for a course).

Ubuntu has numerous opportunities for community service participation in Southern Africa that are geared towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Volunteering and Internships;

Volunteering experiences are mostly for working professionals that need “a break” from their normal, day to day worklife and “want to make a difference” with their time. The Ubuntu Institute has excellent volunteering opportunities in various fields and flexible time periods in Southern Africa.

Study Abroad

Ubuntu Institute does not offer traditional study abroad programs (as we are not a University), but we do work closely with Universities to provide relevant project sites for students interested in service-learning or community development and are on a study abroad program. We work with universities such as Wits University, University of Johannesburg, University of Cape Town and UNISA (University of South Africa) to name a few. Students or faculty can contact us directly if they wish to get support from us.

Role of Ubuntu Institute:

- To focus 100% on designing, researching and making your service program successful
- To become a local partner in the implementing service program as we have the local ‘know-how’, network, experience and capacity to make it easier for you
- We are committed to the same goals as you are-of making a difference in our communities-and help in achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals
- We believe it will take the global community, working together, in the spirit of Ubuntu, to achieve the goals that sometimes seem impossible to achieve
- We believe “Exposure” is a powerful educational tool for individuals,that is distinctly different from a classroom learning experience. Exposure to new environments forces an individual out of his or her comfort zone and promotes growth on a personal level, as well as in terms of career aspirations.
- Sustain activities

What we do:

- Identify appropriate service-learning sites, volunteering opportunities and community development projects
- Develop itineraries, tailored by you, for the duration of your visit and contact the various/relevant organizations that will suit your needs
- We provide orientation before you arrive, when you arrive and after you leave (on how you can stay connected to the projects)

- Help arrange accommodation, transport (local), meals (where required), health insurance and security for the entire duration of your program visit
- We provide a 24hr on-call doctor for the duration of your program for cases of health emergency
- Ubuntu will provide a qualified person to conduct student assessment for credit courses and service-learning
- We conduct extensive orientation on local culture and expectation of your visit with basic lessons on the local language e.g. How to say “hello” and show respect
- We follow up with organizations after you have left to make sure your work and contribution is sustainable long after you are gone
- Find leisure activities you can enjoy (safari, Cape Town waterfront, Apartheid Museum, cultural site visits)
- Ubuntu will work with local universities e.g. Wits University or University of Johannesburg to contact relevant faculty or departments for credit-bearing coursework
- Help with communication options to stay in touch with family back at home
- Ubuntu will develop co-proposals with faculty and university departments for service-learning projects in Southern Africa
- Ubuntu will support students or faculty that want to stay in the area for an extended period of time (up to 3 months)
- Ubuntu will help with the Visa requirements and immigration issues related to your travel e.g. issuing invitation letters for visa’s
- Ubuntu will arrange volunteer and community service project sites for working professionals and students seeking non-credit as well
- Ubuntu will provide student volunteers (from local universities) to partner with visiting university students for cross-cultural exchanges

Capacity; Ubuntu Exposure

Organizational Capacity; Staff

1. Prince Cedza Dlamini (CEO and Founder)
2. Rose Venter (Inbound Programme Co-ordinator)
3. Beished Shabangu (Out-Bound Programme Co-ordinator)
4. Liona Mooloo (Administrative Assistant)
5. Poppie Masombuko (Logistics-Travel and Accommodation)
6. Mr Alan Viljoen (Logistics-Travel and Accommodation)
7. Nqobile Kubheka (Intern)
8. Mpho Modisaesi (Communications Director)
9. Titus Moetsabi (Consultant/Service-Learning Assessment)
10. Selina Tsotsetsi (Office Caretaker)

Our offices are located in Centurion, Pretoria , South Africa

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Partnerships.

Wits University

University of Johannesburg

UNISA

Numerous Project Sites (HIV/AIDS& health sciences, business development, tourism, environmental sustainability etc.)

Royal Global Tours Africa

South African Police Services

Swaziland Police Services

Morningside Clinic

South African Government

Swaziland Government

Time Schedule: (travel dates are flexible and can be modified to suit optimal travel dates for participants)

2008

Summer Program Dates for 2008:

- May 17th – May 31st
- June 1st – June 14th
- June 15th – June 29th
- June 29th – July 14th
- July 6th – July 20th
- July 21st – August 4th
- August 9th – August 23rd

Winter Break Travel Period: November 25th, 2008-January 5th, 2009

2009

Spring Break Travel Period: March 8th- April 2nd

Summer Program Dates for 2009:

- May 17th – May 31st
- June 1st – June 14th
- June 15th – June 29th
- June 29th – July 14th
- July 6th – July 20th
- July 21st – August 4th
- August 9th – August 23rd

Winter Break Travel Period: November 25th, 2009 -January 5th, 2010

2010

Spring Break Travel Period : March 8th- April 2nd

Summer Program Dates for 2010:

- May 17th – May 31st
- June 1st – June 14th

Programs running longer than June 1st will be only 2010 Soccer World Cup Volunteer Opportunities.

Winter Break Travel Period: November 25th 2010 -January 5th, 2011

2008 Locations

South Africa

Swaziland

Other Southern African Developing Countries (SADC): Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Mauritius, Namibia, Lesotho, Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Angola

Fees

All Ubuntu service-learning programs \$1,800.00 for 2weeks. The placement fee includes:

- All your food and accommodation
- On-ground Transport
- Excursions
- Administration Costs
- Service-Learning Projects Orientation
- Provision of Security
- Provision of 24hr on-call Medical doctor
- Developing your full project itinerary

* Our fee schedule does not include airfare as the price of airfare varies depending on time of booking.

*For those wishing to stay for 4 weeks, the program costs \$3,600.00

Methods of Payment

Electronic Wire Transfers

Credit Cards