

Winter and Spring Break Impact

Program Overview

Through participation in innovative rural development work within a challenging cultural, language learning and grassroots environment, Social Entrepreneur Corps ensures that participants will:

- Gain insights into the opportunities, inherent risks and limitations involved in third world development
- Have ample opportunities to significantly increase language proficiency
- Observe, learn and live in a diversity of cultural settings
- Experience home stay living with local families
- Have the opportunity to visit an array of development and relief organizations
- Be offered the opportunity to make a significant contribution in a highly structure manner working side by side with field based social entrepreneurs

It is the mission of Social Entrepreneur Corps that the selected interns participating in this exclusive program leave the program 100% satisfied in their time and financial investment having gained the desired knowledge and experience in a secure, enjoyable and truly enlightening manner. Through classes, case studies, discussions, analysis, living with the local population, as well as through visits and active participation with local NGOs and social entrepreneurs, interns will make a profound community impact while gaining an in-depth knowledge of rural economic development. The desired outcomes for the program are that interns:

Social Entrepreneurship

- Will have gained an understanding of the key differences, advantages and disadvantages of varied international relief and economic development models
- Will feel knowledgeable with regards to the challenges and opportunities inherent in the creation of successful social entrepreneurship models, implementation strategies and tactics.
- Will have learned and practiced effective strategies for training, mentoring and supporting local social entrepreneurs
- Will have contributed to the identification and design of new social entrepreneurship opportunities for local constituents

Culture

- Will have gained an understanding of the challenges confronting the rural population specifically
- Will feel comfortable interacting with the local population on a general, family and individual level
- Will have gained an understanding of the cultural and professional "do's" and "don'ts" of living and working in a rural development environment such as Guatemala, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic
- Will understand how the rural population lives, works and what they aspire to achieve

Spanish Language

- Will have significantly improved their conversational Spanish capabilities
- Will have gained an understanding of the nuance of language in developing country environments



Structural Summary

The Winter and Spring Break Impact programs are divided into four segments; pre-arrival, orientation and foundation building, field work and conclusion, delivery and presentation. Below we have summarized the program sequence.

Pre-Arrival

Pre-arrival participants are provided with all itineraries, orientation, safety and project specific information.

Orientation and Foundation Building

Upon arrival in country, all participants spend the first segment (two days) of their time in the headquarters site in Antigua participating in orientation sessions, living with homestay families, studying Spanish intensively and participating in project content and technical training. This training will focus on a specific product or MCM theme, such as solar energy products or health and nutrition. The focus of this first orientation and foundation building segment is to provide participants with the necessary knowledge and skills for the field work segment and to begin outlining and working on pre-designated projects. This "ramp up" segment is essential to ensure that participants can work as effectively as possible with our development professionals and constituents in the field.

Field Work

Upon conclusion of the first segment in the headquarters site, participants will travel to the field regions throughout the country, staying with additional homestay families, in group living settings and/or in hotels. Participants will be working with our team to identify needs and to do field-based feasibility analyses for solutions specific to the program's theme. Examples of themes may include:

- How to advertise a specific solar product
- The most important things to focus on in a community education project about nutrition
- What an entrepreneur needs to know before selling a new technology (and how we should train her)

The desired outcome is that by the end of the program, participants will have determined the dynamics of a specific need and potential solution and will have been able to provide the Social Entrepreneur Corps leadership team with recommendations based on their time in the field.

Conclusion, Delivery and Presentation

Finally, all participants return to the headquarters site for the final days of the program. At this time final projects are completed and presented.

