

“Travel with a Purpose!”

International Institute for Peace Through
Tourism Conference

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Ambassadors for Children

- AFC is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization based in the United States.
- Mission: To serve children throughout the world through short-term humanitarian service trips and sustainable programs.
- Vision: To promote cultural exchange and understanding through face-to-face, one-on-one interactions between volunteers and the children we serve.

Where does AFC work?

- Ambassadors for Children currently operates humanitarian trips and supports sustainable programs in Central America, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia.
- Africa has fast become one of AFC's most popular destinations. We currently work in Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, and South Africa.

Uganda



Kenya



Malawi



South Africa



What does AFC do?

- Ambassadors for Children works on sustainable programs to ensure we are making an impact on the ground.
- Our groups travel back to the same destination several times throughout the year to build upon and continually improve our programs.
- Here are some examples...

Belize Sewing Program:

- Started in 2006, this program consists of 15 women in rural Belize who have begun their own sewing business with the help of monetary and supply donations.
- Today, they make uniforms for the local schools and also sell their goods in the market.

El Salvador Micro-Financing Program:

- Loans in the amount of \$100-\$250 USD are granted to families so that they can start their own business and become more productive members of their community.
- Loans are repaid and then issued to new families so that others may have the same opportunity to provide for themselves.
- AFC is proud to work with Kiwanis International on this project.

Jordan Arabic Library Program:

- AFC raises money for Arabic Libraries that are then placed throughout schools within Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan, the West Bank, and Gaza.
- AFC partners with the UNRWA and Scholastic Books on this project.

South Africa Medical Clinics:

- AFC supports the Baphumelele Orphanage in Khayelitsha Township in South Africa.
- We are currently raising money to help build health clinics for the orphans and for HIV/AIDS patients in the township.

Malawi Educational Resource Center:

- With over 2 million orphans, there are many children not receiving any kind of education in Malawi.
- AFC is partnering with the Malawi Project, Inc. to create an educational resource center at Mtendere Orphans Village.
- This will include a library, maps, teaching materials, and computer equipment.

Uganda School Program:

- AFC is partnering with Building Tomorrow to raise money to help build a school on the outskirts of Kampala.
- We hope to also build a volunteer center where our groups can come on a regular basis to constantly offer support, educational materials, recreational items, and a unique cultural exchange with the students.

The new trend...

- Volunteering while on vacation has fast become a new trend in the travel industry.
- “Alternative Spring Breaks” take on a whole new meaning...
- Families are looking to get their children involved in giving back at an early age.
- Volunteering with a group is the perfect way to build camaraderie.

Who is Traveling with a Purpose?

- High School/Secondary and University students make up the largest portion of those Traveling with a Purpose.
- Families, couples, individuals looking for that once in a lifetime experience make up the second largest group.
- Church groups, alumni groups, and social groups such as Kiwanis, Rotary, etc. account for the remaining volunteers.





What is involved when Traveling with a Purpose?

- Expect to immerse yourself in the community – eat local food and drink, learn common phrases, listen to local music, really get to know the people.
- Work on development projects side-by-side with members of the community.
- Get to know the country by participating in tours throughout the trip.

What are some obstacles involved?

- People are not used to paying to volunteer – we must help them to see that this is an “experience” worth paying for!
- The tourism industry and the non-profit world are just beginning to partner – this relationship will have to be developed throughout the years.
- Preparing and orienting large groups of short-term workers takes time and organization.
- Most importantly, we must ensure that the work being done is actually benefiting the community and not just appeasing the volunteers.



Should I Travel with a Purpose?

- If you have an open mind, a dedication to fostering cultural exchanges, a passion to help, and a sense of adventure, Traveling with a Purpose is perfect for you!
- Oh, and don't forget flexibility! Traveling abroad, especially for the first time, can be an experience in itself.



How do I learn more?

- Search the internet for companies offering volunteer vacations, humanitarian trips, cultural immersion, etc.
- Look for books on volunteering abroad
- Speak with others who have volunteered abroad and get their suggestions – word of mouth is the best way to promote a good program.

Visit AFC at www.ambassadorsforchildren.org to learn more about us!

Uganda partnership..

- Ambassadors for Children and Invisible Children recently partnered to bring 20 students from Purdue University in Indiana to Gulu, Uganda.
- Volunteers worked on rebuilding huts in Atanga IDP Camp, helped to build a fence at Layibi College, and worked at St. Jude's Orphanage for one week.
- Volunteers learned about the historical and cultural aspects of Uganda through tours of Kampala, Jinja, Gulu, and Entebbe.

What one trip can do...

- The impact from this one trip was astonishing!
- Our 20 volunteers worked with over 2200 children in this one week putting in over 40 hours of work.
- Our team donated \$800 USD and over \$852 USD worth of in-kind donations to the children of Gulu.
- Not to mention that this group raised an additional \$4000 for Layibi College the year leading up to the trip!

Impact on the volunteers...

- AFC's trip to Uganda made an unbelievable impact on the volunteers participating.
- Chapters for AFC, Invisible Children, and Building Tomorrow are being started upon return to the United States to continue raising money for Uganda.
- These volunteers are energized and enthusiastic about their experience here in Uganda and will help to promote international volunteering and cultural exchange in their school, community, church, and among family and friends.

What has AFC learned since 1998?

- People want to give back – most just don't know how.
- People are now more inclined to give of their time and efforts and not just their money.
- People want to see what makes a destination truly unique – it is the people and not the tourist sites that determine this.

Bottom line...

- By Traveling with a Purpose, the tourism and non-profit industries are developing a foundation and platform upon which the world's largest industries can mutually benefit and deliver a common message to our global community...
- The key to ending poverty and creating peace throughout the world begins with each individual person and how they choose to live their lives.

Travel with a Purpose and begin
your journey...

