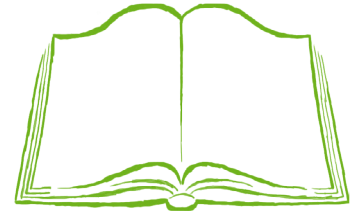


GIVING *Life*



How mission trips are making an impact on those they educate

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The term education is defined as “the process of receiving or giving systematic instruction, especially at a school or university.” What people don’t realize about education today is that it has completely broken away from its original definition and has expanded into many different platforms and outlets. One of those platforms are mission trips. A mission trip is when a small group of people travel outside of their home town, state, or country to go serve people that are in need. Most mission trips are typically sponsored through a church, or on occasion, a school. The people who go on these trips usually prepare months ahead of time, but some of the most valuable things they learn happen throughout the trip itself.

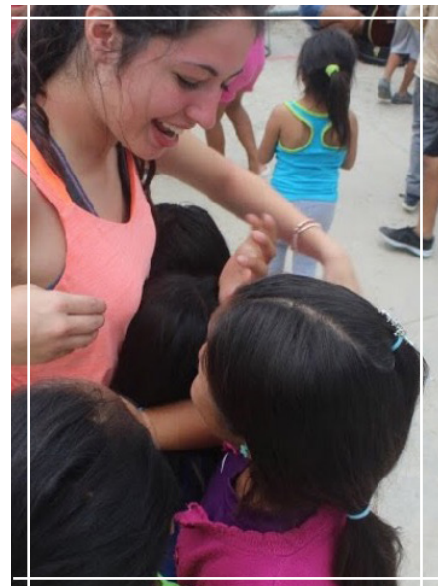
“In so many ways, my mission trip required experience on the ground that couldn’t be explained before being there. I learned everything practically. People always say things are easier said than done and that is especially true on a mission trip. It wasn’t enough to just learn about other cultures, I had to experience it for it to become real,” senior Cassidy Williams said.

While classrooms and classes focused toward specific subjects might be able to educate people more than a simple Google search, mission trips offer hands on experiences that are unique to each individual. Simple things like the weather can completely change one group’s experience compared to another.

“Whenever we were performing the freedom drama in a town in Haiti of about thirty people and it was pouring down rain and we were in the mud, right after we finished the freedom drama, we went into the church and were talking to the villagers. All thirty of them came to Christ right then and there and they followed us to all five towns we went to that day,” senior Jack Crisman said.

Sometimes the biggest impacts are made in the most unexpected and simple ways. In today’s society, schools and universities are ranked based on the number of resources they have available. Since mission trips usually take place in places of poverty and need, there aren’t always a lot of resources available other than what teams can take with them when they travel.

“The lack of resources is a challenge to where you have to just kinda be on the fly about everything because back home



photos courtesy of Jack Crisman and Ashton Overby

you can usually plan and plan stuff, but over there it's take what you can get and try and come up with something out of it," freshman Ashton Overby said.

In America, people generally have a vast amount of resources available to them, and may sometimes take that for granted. Mission trips can teach people life lessons and help them grow in their appreciation for what they have.

"It made us a lot more grateful for everything that we have which made us just teach them there you have to be thankful for what you have because not everyone has the same things and the same access to everything," freshman Abby Overby said.

Alongside appreciation and new life lessons, mission trips can teach people skills they will use throughout the rest of their life, and could potentially aid them in applying for colleges, getting a job, or just their overall communication skills.

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"I learned really good cross cultural communication skills, I used these with the Ecuadorians on our team and with locals. More importantly I learned no matter where you are in life your never alone in your walk," junior Michael Fuller said.

What some people may not realize is that mission trips can bring out a different side of themselves and change their perspectives on normal, everyday things in their lives.

"I also remember coming back from my first trip and scrolling through Twitter before I fell asleep and being physically upset with the greediness of people I followed. I had just spent a week in a country with children who may have had a shirt to wear if they were lucky. I remember feeling disgusted at my culture. I really leaned into the source of my feelings that night and realized that I needed to use my gifts and my resources to help others," said Williams.



2 MILLION



FROM AMERICA

GO ON MISSION TRIPS EACH YEAR

HAITI

IS THE MOST POPULAR MISSION TRIP DESTINATION



35%

OF MISSION TRIPS STAY IN AMERICA

CHRISTIANTY

SPONSORS THE MOST MISSION TRIPS



Pleasant Valley Baptist Church annually plans mission trips to countries in need around the world. In July, 2016 the church took a trip to Haiti to teach Haitian children about Jesus. "Going to Haiti made me so much more grateful for everything that I have and do. It was educational not only for the children we reached, but also for us," senior Grace Kappler said.